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LOCAL RECORDS;
OR
HISTORICAL REGISTER
OF
REMARKABLE EVENTS,
WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN
NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, AND BERWICK UPON TWEED,
FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD OF AUTHENTIC RECORD,
TO THE PRESENT TIME;
WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES
OF
DECEASED PERSONS OF TALENT, ECCENTRICITY,
AND LONGEVITY.
BY JOHN SYKES.

“There comes a voice that awakes my soul—It is the voice of years that are gone
they roll before me with all their deeds.”

OSSIAN.

A NEW EDITION, WITH NUMEROUS EMBELLISHMENTS,
IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

NEWCASTLE;

PRINTED FOR, AND SOLD BY, JOHN SYKES, BOOKSELLER;
AND MAY BE HAD OF ALL THE BOOKSELLERS IN NORTHUMBERLAND
AND DURHAM, BERWICK, EDINBURGH, YORK, AND LONDON.

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LOCAL RECORDS ;

OR,

HISTORICAL REGISTER OF REMARKABLE EVENTS.

1800.—THE harvest of the preceding year, in the vicinity of Newcastle, was so backward, that a quantity of oats was not cut till near the end of January this year, at Leadgate, in the parish of Ryton ; and at that late period, oats were standing uncut at Hedley, and other southern parts of Northumberland. In consequence of the failure of the above harvest, together with the effects of war, a great dearth prevailed, and wheat in Newcastle market was frequently sold at two guineas a boll, two Winchester bushels. A subscription was formed at Durham for assisting the poor of that city and its neighbourhood. The hall of St. Nicholas' workhouse was fitted up as a soup kitchen, and a great quantity of soup, &c., was distributed to the poor at a very moderate charge.

Jan. 27.—Died, Francis Hill, well known by the name of *Old Franky*. He had attended in a sod hut on the road between Newcastle and Shields for upwards of fifty years, to solicit the charity by which his harmless existence was supported.

March 2.—Three prisoners, named John Outerside, under sentence of transportation, Richard Lowe, committed for forgery, and Thomas Graham, committed for high-way robbery, effected their escape from the gaol of Newcastle. By wrenching a bar from the inside of the chimney of their cell they forced their way up the chimney to the roof of the prison, whence, by cutting their bed-clothes and knotting the pieces together, which they tied to a sun-dial on the roof, they descended to the field adjoining Gallowgate. John Sill, convicted with Outerside, attempted to escape at the same time, but being rather corpulent, he stuck fast in the chimney, and could neither get out nor back again, till he was assisted down by the keepers. Outerside was taken the same day by the intrepidity of Mr. Gale, the gaoler, at Woodend, near Bea-
mish, and Graham would have shared the same fate, had some

countrymen who were spectators of the pursuit, lent their assistance; while Mr. Gale kept guard upon Outerside, he offered 5*l.* to any who would assist in the pursuit of Graham, which they uniformly refused.

A similar escape was carried into effect the same day by four of the felons in the gaol at Morpeth, two of whom were soon taken. One of the above four prisoners who made their escape, was John Winter, of the notorious family of that name.

1800.—The beginning of this year, no less than 69 out of 71 vessels, laden with coals, from Shields and Sunderland, were wrecked in their passage to London.



1800 (*April 4*).—Died, in the 40th year of his age, Mr. Solomon Hodgson, many years printer and publisher of the Newcastle Chronicle newspaper, in the conduct of which, he uniformly advanced the genuine sentiments of his mind, uninfluenced by party or interest of any kind, and unconnected with any political club or society whatever. Firmly attached to the principles of constitutional liberty, to recal the attention of his readers to those principles, was an object to which he devoted his chief exertions. He feelingly lamented the miseries of war; and so long as he could do it consistently with personal safety, he exercised the privilege of declaring his conscientious sentiments with boldness and freedom, but always without descending to licentiousness or personality. His remains lie interred in St. John's church-yard, under a table monument, next that of John Cunningham, the celebrated pastoral poet, who had been patronized, &c., by Mr. Thomas Slack, Mr. Hodgson's father-in-law. The above wood cut, for the use of which I am indebted to Messrs. T. and J. Hodgson, was engraved by Mr. Thomas Bewick, and a few impressions from it were presented to Mr. Hodgson's friends.

1800 (*May* 11).—One hundred and forty-four vessels sailed from Shields, under convoy for the Baltic, having on board, besides other commodities, 11,600 chaldrons of coals, Newcastle measure.

May 18.—Died, at the Grange, near Darlington, George Allan, esq., F.S.A. He was an indefatigable collector of topography and antiquities, and in addition to his own museum, he purchased the Wycliffe collection for less than 700*l.*, of which the birds alone cost Mr. Tunstall 5,000*l.* In or about 1768, Mr. Allan commenced his typographical labours, with a view of amusing himself by multiplying at an easy rate, any curious subject in antiquities or biography that struck his fancy; all of which, from the small number of copies printed, have long since become extremely rare. The Grange museum, which was purchased for 400*l.*, forms at present the museum of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle. There is an excellent likeness of Mr. Allan seated in council with his colleague Hutchinson, prefixed to the eighth volume of Nichol's *Literary Anecdotes*

June 4.—Died, in the streets in Newcastle, William Barron, an eccentric, well known for many years by the name of "*Billy Pea-pudding*."

June 8.—A person named Blenkinsop, a joiner of Newcastle, was observed by a woman to ascend the railing which surrounded the shaft of Lawson's main colliery at Byker, near Newcastle, and to precipitate himself feet foremost into it, having previously thrown down his hat. She instantly gave the alarm, and on proper persons descending the pit, the body was found in a shockingly mangled condition occasioned by a fall of more than 137 fathoms. The following is a copy of a letter found in his pocket addressed to his wife:—"My dear Mary, I hope that God Almighty will so order things, that you will be better without than with your unhappy, unfortunate, but affectionate husband, Thomas Blenkinsop." For some weeks before, he had shewn strong symptoms of a disordered mind, though this letter appeared to be written under the prevalence of sanity.

June 16.—Died, At Mill-green, near Ravensworth, Mary Brown, aged 100 years.

July 13.—Died, in All Saints' poor-house, Newcastle, William Thompson, an eccentric, well known by the name of "*Traveller Billy*." He was noted for his numerous gormandizing exploits, and his death was occasioned by endeavouring to swallow a shilling, which he was fearful would be taken from him.

July 21.—A horse and gig took fright near the Carpenters' Tower, Newcastle, and set off in full gallop down the narrow and very steep passage, called St. James' Lane, which leads from that place to Pandon-bank. The owner was thrown out, and much bruised, and the gig was dashed to pieces. The horse sprang over the wall into Pandon-bank, fell on his feet, and continued his career up the street into the fields, where he was retaken uninjured.

July 26.—Died, in the city of Durham, Mr. John Farrer, aged 102 years.

1800 (*Aug. 10*).—Died, at Dissington, Ann Wilson, aged 101 years. She not only retained all her faculties to the last, but worked hay that year, and did a variety of domestic employments.

August 25.—Died, Mrs. Elizabeth Montagu, in the 80th year of her age. This lady, who was the eldest daughter of Matthew, Robinson, esq. of West Layton, in Yorkshire, married in 1742, Edward Montagu, esq. of East Denton, in Northumberland, eminent for his acquirements in science, particularly in mathematics. The extraordinary talents and beauty of Mrs. Montagu have been much extolled, and her conversation was sought by all who were distinguished for learning and politeness. Her excellent letters have been published in 4 vols. 8vo., and her Essay on the writings and genius of Shakespeare, in answer to the trifling objections of Voltaire, must always rank with the best illustrations of the bard of Avon. Mrs. Montagu survived her husband 25 years. She fitted up Denton Hall in the Gothic stile. It is at present occupied by Richard Hoyle, esq. *See July 12, 1766, and August 5, 1770, vol. i. pp. 258, and 274.*

September 28.—Died, at her house, in Northumberland-street, Newcastle, aged 78 years, Mrs. Priscilla Atlee, a widow lady of ample fortune, great part of which she expended in acts of piety and charity. Her remains were interred at All Saints' church; they were followed by thirteen coaches, and embalmed by the tears of the poor whom her benevolence had clothed and fed.

This month, the foundation of the Roman wall, built by the emperor Severus nearly 1600 years before, was taken up at Byker, east of Newcastle, in order to repair the highways.

October 7.—Died, at Seaton Delaval, in Northumberland, the countess of Tyrconnell, after an illness of many months. She was the only child of the late Lord Delaval.

The grand stand on the Town Moor, at Newcastle, was this year built.

This year, as some workmen were levelling a barrow, about a quarter of a mile north of Bowsdon, in the parish of Lowick, in Northumberland, they found two urns inverted upon broad flags, and containing bones, which appeared to have been partially burnt. Previous to this another funeral urn was turned up by the plough at Bowsdon Hollins.

1801 (*Jan. 1*).—The Newcastle volunteers were drawn up on the Sandhill, and fired three most excellent vollies in honour of the legislative union between this country and Ireland. On this occasion, the corps, for the first time, mounted the union bearings in their colours, and marched along the bridge to the county of Durham, where, in the presence of the Gateshead volunteers, they expressed their resolution to be UNITED. A similar celebration took place on the part of the armed association. The colours of all the ships at the quay were hoisted.

January 24.—A fire broke out in the printing-office occupied by Mr. John Taylor, in Church-street, Berwick, which raged with such violence, that the building (partly covered with thatch) was

entirely destroyed, together with the stock and working implements. The fire broke out in a room used for drying printed paper. The loss was estimated at 1,000*l*.

1801 (*Feb. 5*).—Died, in the Flesh Market, Newcastle, Margaret Robson, aged 103 years. She retained her faculties to the last.

February 14.—Two soldiers of the 3d Lancashire militia on furlough, travelling between Durham and Auckland, were so fatigued and distressed by the inclemency of the weather, that one of them on entering a public house near Butcher-row, and warming himself by the fire, fell backwards from his chair and expired; the other, who was somewhat forward, was found dead under the park wall near Auckland, by a butcher going to Durham market.

March 14.—Died, in the city of Durham, Mrs. Eleanor Crowe, aged 103 years.

March 26.—The body of an old man, recognized to be that of an old mendicant, and his dog, were found floating in the river Tyne, opposite to the quay, Newcastle. They had been missing for more than a month, and were, dead, as they had lived, attached to each other; the cord by which the blind man had been led by his four-footed friend being wrapped about his wrist.

March 27.—A tumult took place in the corn-market at Sunderland, in consequence of the price of wheat, 40*s*. being demanded by one of the dealers for a boll of that grain. The populace immediately raked the kennels for dirt, with which they besmeared the farmer, who was glad to retreat to the Fountain inn, the windows of which house were assailed with stones and brick-bats, as were also those of the Half-Moon and Queen's Head. Besides the damage sustained in the brittle materials of the houses attacked, a quantity of corn was madly trodden under foot, and several of the farmers' carts were hurried into the Wear, one of which was seen floating to the sea the next morning. A justice of the peace, with a few constables, seized upon one of the insurgents, and committed him to the *Cage*, but he was soon liberated by a body of the rioters. Things continued thus till about nine o'clock, when the justice, with an increased body of constables, again made their appearance, and read the riot act on the steps of the George inn, by candle-light, but with so little success, that it was deemed prudent to plant a military guard round his house during the night. In the midst of the affray, a party of the Lancashire militia was called out; they loaded their muskets, but received no orders to fire.

March 31.—*Wonderful News!!!* The London Courier of this day, and the Edinburgh Courant of April the 2d, contained accounts of the fall of the steeples of St. Nicholas and All Saints' churches, in Newcastle. The paragraph in the Courier was given in the form of an extract of a letter, as follows:—"Newcastle, March 29. I seize the first opportunity to relate to you the unexpected destruction of the spire of St. Nicholas' church in this town, which, for elegance of design, lightness, and durability, had long been classed among the first productions of art in the north.

Yesterday evening, about eight o'clock (after experiencing a fine day), we had a smart shower of rain, attended with a strong southerly wind, which increased considerably; at a little before nine, some stones fell from the steeple, one of which unfortunately alighted upon a young woman, and bruised her so desperately that her life is in danger. It still continuing to blow strong, fears were entertained for the safety of the steeple; the butchers, who expose their meat for sale near the church, were very alert in removing it; the impending danger was swiftly spread around. I, too, hearing of the dreadful alarm, was repairing to view the cause of it, when I had scarcely left the door, when the upper part of the steeple, and as low as the belfry, was removed from its long wonted situation, covering at some distance from its base, on the north side (called the Flesh-market), with ruins. The most painful part of the catastrophe is, that I, among others, have to lament the loss of seven of our fellow-creatures, who have fallen victims to their too ardent desire of saving their property; four of them were butchers, one of whom belonged to Morpeth; five more persons were severely hurt, but I trust not dangerously. A public-house near to the church was nearly levelled with the ground, and several other buildings were materially damaged. It is much to be feared that some more persons have lost their lives, whose curiosity had led them to the spot, as (while I write) some are yet missing. The confusion this disastrous affair has occasioned, I am at a loss to describe; numbers of the inhabitants are continually repairing to view the ruins. The fall of this elegant remains of ancient architecture, which was 194 feet in height, and adorned with thirteen spires, has been attributed to various causes." The Edinburgh Courant of April the 2d, contained an account of the fall of All Saints' steeple in Newcastle, as follows:—"Newcastle, March 27. The spire of that modern-built church, called All Saints, suddenly fell to the ground, on the south side, at about half-past 5 o'clock this morning. Happily no lives were lost. The cause of this accident is generally attributed to the impropriety of building the spire so high, it being known, that the tower on which it was built had considerably shrunk." It is only necessary to say, that they were ingenious fabrications, intended for the first of April. The steeples are still standing, and likely to do so. For an account of St. Nicholas' steeple, see the year 1359, vol. i. page 50.

1801 (*April 16*).—The Gazette of this day confirmed the elevation of Lord Eldon to the important office of lord high chancellor of Great Britain. The intelligence was received by his fellow-townsmen in Newcastle with the most distinguished marks of respect. The bells in all the churches in that town and Gateshead continued ringing from the arrival of the mail till late in the evening, and numerous groups of his lordship's relatives and friends were formed in various parts of the neighbourhood to celebrate the event.

April 19.—Died, at Walker, near Newcastle, aged 36, Mr. Thomas Barnes, principal viewer and agent at Walker colliery.

He was a man of very superior abilities in his profession. A most ingenious and yet simple combination of machinery, for the purpose of regulating the conveyance of waggons, laden with coals, down an inclined plane, from Benwell colliery, on the north side of the Tyne, to the staith at the border of the river, and for bringing up the waggons, when unloaded, by the same power that resisted its projectile *impetus* in the descent, was, in the year 1798, perfected and brought into use by Mr. Barnes. His remains lie interred in Long Benton church-yard, where a table monument is erected to his memory.

1801 (*April 21*).—In celebration of the decisive victory obtained over the Danish fleet and batteries, by Lord Nelson, the Newcastle volunteers, the armed association, the Gateshead volunteers, the 11th light dragoons, and the North York militia, had a grand field-day on Newcastle Town Moor, in the presence of lieut.-gen. Murray. Similar rejoicings took place at all the neighbouring towns.

May 2.—About four o'clock on the morning, the iron slitting-mill of Messrs. Hawks and Co., near Gateshead, was discovered to be on fire, but by the prompt exertions of the company's workmen, who lived upon the spot, it was readily extinguished.

May 6.—The foundation-stone of the new building for the Sunderland Subscription Library was laid by Dr. Brown, who deposited an appropriate inscription, in the presence of several members of the institution. May 11th, 1802, it was opened, when an elegant breakfast and ball were given by the subscribers to a great number of ladies and gentlemen. The gentlemen afterwards dined at the Bridge inn.

May 21.—A terrible fire broke out in the village of Harbottle, Northumberland, owing to a foul chimney. Nine cottages and four out-houses were unfortunately destroyed by this conflagration, the progress of which there were no means of stopping, till the poor inhabitants lost nearly the whole of their furniture and other effects.

June 30.—The alterations for improving and widening the bridge over the river Tyne, at Newcastle, were begun under the management of the late Mr. David Stephenson, architect. It was a bold and successful undertaking.

July 29.—The North York militia marched from Newcastle, and encamped on the coast near Whitburn, in the county of Durham. The camp broke up on the 13th of October.

August 19.—As a cartman of Newcastle was employed with four horses in drawing some heavy timber ashore, near the end of Hillgate, Gateshead, he threw a brick at the foremost animal to hasten his speed. This cruel act had, however, the contrary effect, for the brick striking the poor animal upon the head, he fell back, stunned and almost lifeless, upon his fellow-labourers, and being all chained together, a terrible struggle in deep water immediately ensued, which ended not till the four horses were drowned.

September 5.—Two postilions in the service of Mr. Maddocks,

of Wooler Haugh-head, were, on the afternoon of this day, employed with four horses in conveying a gentleman's carriage, in which were himself and family, to Holy Island. About nine o'clock in the evening, the postilions set out on their return homewards, with their horses, and shortly after a thick fog came on. Strong apprehensions were in consequence entertained by the islanders for their safety, which, next morning, were found too fatally verified; for soon after day-light, the bodies of the two unfortunate men, and one of the horses, were discovered lifeless on the sands. Another horse, which by some means survived, stood motionless beside its dead companion. The remaining two horses were supposed to have been buried in a quick-sand, many of which abound in this dangerous passage.

1801 (*Sept. 23*).—The foundation-stone of the additional building to the Infirmary at Newcastle, was laid by Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., one of the vice-presidents of the charity, as representative of his grace the duke of Northumberland, the senior president, in the presence of a great concourse of spectators. Previous to the ceremony of laying the stone, the worthy baronet addressed the company assembled, in a neat speech, in which he pointed out the essential service rendered to numerous unfortunate members of society by this noble institution, and cordially recommended its most ample support. He paid a just tribute of applause to the skill and humanity of the physicians and surgeons attached to the charity, and to the other inferior agents in this great business of benevolence. Sir Matthew concluded by informing his auditory, that the duke of Northumberland, to his other munificent respect for the Infirmary, had added ten guineas, as a present to the workmen employed in the proposed extension. A plate with an inscription was deposited in the stone. The additional building is of brick, the original of stone. *See Feb. 9th, 1751, vol. i. page 197.*

October 2.—A line of keels was moored across the river Tyne near Clifford's Fort, and deals laid across them from shore to shore. After carefully examining this extraordinary highway, Lord Mulgrave mounted his charger, and accompanied by General Murray, Major Heron, and other officers, rode over from the county of Durham to Northumberland. Major Heron then galloped back again. Soon after, Lord Mulgrave marched the 1st regiment of royal Lancashire militia (accompanied by their field pieces and ammunition waggons) from Tynemouth barracks over this bridge to the Herd Sands, when an action took place against a supposed enemy; at the same time several shells were fired from a battery on the north side, which had a fine effect. The troops were then marched back again, and Major Heron (after firing three close volleys), marched the South Shields volunteers into Northumberland. The adjacent banks and hills were covered with spectators to witness this novel sight.

October 15.—On the signing of the preliminaries of peace between Great Britain and the French Republic, a general illumination

took place in Newcastle and Gateshead, when many loyal and curious devices in transparency, &c., were exhibited.*

1801 (*Oct. 26*).—About midnight, some incendiary set fire to the stacks in a yard belonging to Messrs. Reed of Old Town, in the parish of Elsdon, by which diabolical act, seven corn stacks and one hay stack were totally consumed.

November 19.—John Scott, convicted of sheep stealing from Mr. S. Dodd, was executed at Morpeth, pursuant to his sentence.

December 23.—Died, at Heaton, near Newcastle, Mr. Thomas Thompson. Although blind, he was very famous for his judgment in cows, of which he purchased many in the markets.

This month, died at Longhorsley, Mr. John Buddler, farmer, aged 101 years.

This year, Framwellgate and Brasside Moors, and Witton Gilbert Common (2,400 acres), all in the county of Durham, were divided. The late bishop (Barrington) had one sixteenth of the soil allotted, and all the mines. This venerable prelate appropriated one third of his whole allotment to the founding of schools within the county of Durham.

1802 (*Jan. 7*).—About one o'clock on the morning, part of the wall (to the length of 60 or 70 feet) of All Saints' church-yard, Newcastle, fell into Silver-street, with a tremendous crash, knocking in the doors and windows of some of the houses opposite, and exposing to view many coffins and their contents, and vast quantities of human bones. Happily no lives were lost, nor was any person injured.

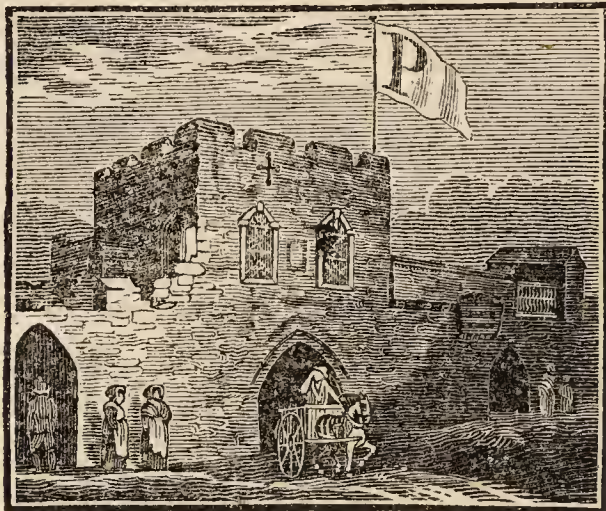
May 4.—Being the day appointed by the magistrates of Newcastle, for proclaiming the peace between Great Britain and the French Republic, the morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells, which continued at intervals during the day. At noon the Newcastle Volunteers, the Armed Association, and the Gateshead Volunteers, with their respective bands, were under arms, on the Sandhill, to receive the members of the corporation with the regalia, attended by the officers of the police, eighteen free porters, carrying each an ancient battle axe, sixteen with javelins, and sixteen with halberts. The civil authorities were then surrounded by the military to keep off the crowd, and the sound of trumpets announced that his majesty's proclamation was about to be read. This was done by Mr. Richard Hill, the town-marshal; the town sword (which had been borne unsheathed) was now sheathed, after which, the procession moved forward to the westend of Mosley-street, and then to the White Cross in Newgate-street, at each of which places the proclamation was read. The whole returned in good order to the Sandhill, where, after a *feu de joie*, wine was handed to the magistrates and the military, and the occasion of the day was drunk with the enthusiasm of acclamation it so well merited.

May 25.—The Society of Arts presented the silver medal, and 60 guineas to Mr. Henry Greathead, of South Shields, for his invention of the life boat.

* For a particular account of this illumination, see "*Account of Rejoicings and Illuminations in Newcastle and Gateshead*," published by John Sykes.

1802 (*June 1*).—On this day was published in Newcastle, by Mr. John Mitchell, the first number of the Tyne Mercury and Northumberland and Durham Gazette. It is at present published by his son and successor, Mr. William Andrew Mitchell, the editor.

June.—The French emigrant clergy, who had been resident in Newcastle and its neighbourhood, since October 1796, took their departure for their own country. They left behind them a most grateful address to their benefactors, written in their native language.



PILGRIM-STREET gate, part of the town wall of Newcastle, was commenced being pulled down on the 30th of June this year. It had been long complained of; * frequent instances having occurred, where it was found necessary to take off part of the loading of a waggon, before a passage through the gate could be effected. A cannon ball was found in the wall, weighing

more than 22 lbs.; allowing for waste, this had, in all probability, been a 24 pounder, and thrown during the siege of the town in 1644. See *vol. i. page 97*. In 1716 this gate was repaired and beautified at the expense of the company of House Carpenters, whose hall or meeting-room was above the gateway, and in 1771 convenient foot passages were opened out on each side of it, previous to which, foot passengers must have passed through the horse road.

July 22.—Died, in Hillgate, Gateshead, Alice Carr, aged 102 years.

August 23.—John Carleton, was executed at Durham, for firing a pistol loaded with powder, at Mr. Thomas Greenwell, grocer in Gateshead, whose warehouses he and other accomplices were attempting forcibly to enter.

September 2.—A life-boat, built by Mr. Greathead, of South Shields, arrived at Bamborough castle, under the care of the Mermaid cutter, captain Smith, and was received with a discharge of cannon from the battery, and the greatest joy of the people.

September 3.—The owners of Percy Main colliery, accompanied by a great number of the neighbouring gentlemen, and the workmen belonging to the colliery, walked in procession with the first waggon-load of coals from the winning to the staith at Whitehill Point upon the river Tyne. On their arrival at the staith, the waggon was taken to the spout, where a ship was in readiness to receive the coal, into which they were immediately discharged.

* In October 1770, a petition, signed by the inhabitants of Pilgrim-street, Northumberland-street, and other parts of the town, was presented to the magistrates and common council of Newcastle, praying that application might be made for leave to take down Pilgrim-street gate, which would be of the greatest convenience, and at the same time an excellent improvement of the town.

At the instant of the coal being delivered, a salute of artillery was fired, the band playing "*The Keel Row*" The company then formed a circle, when "Success to Percy Main" was drunk with three times three cheers. The procession then returned to the winning, where a plentiful dinner was prepared, which the company, consisting of 150 gentlemen, sat down to at one table, under a covering erected for the purpose, at three o'clock; after dinner appropriate toasts were drunk, and the afternoon was spent with the greatest conviviality. All the workmen belonging to the colliery were plentifully regaled with beef and plum pudding, strong beer and punch, and they amused themselves with music and dancing till a late hour.

1802 (*Nov. 15*).—About eleven o'clock at night, an alarming fire was discovered to have broken out in the steam-engine and boring mill, at the extensive iron works of Messrs. Hawks and Co., near Gateshead. From the violence of the flames, great fears were entertained that the whole premises would have been consumed, but from the calmness of the evening, and the strenuous exertions of the firemen, aided by the public, their ravages were confined to the building first attacked.

November 16.—The Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, instituted a perpetual lectureship on Natural and Experimental Philosophy, and appointed the Rev. William Turner, lecturer, to the endowment of which, the duke of Northumberland subscribed 200*l.*, and the bishop of Durham 100*l.* The introductory lecture was delivered on the above day.

This month, died at Durham, in the 88th year of his age, Mr. Robert Harrison, a profound mathematician. From his knowledge in mathematics, he was appointed Jan. the 14th, 1757, master of the Trinity-house school in Newcastle, where he also took private pupils; of whom, among others of great respectability, were the present earl of Eldon, and his brother, Lord Stowell. He was acquainted with almost every known language, and possessed a most acute memory. Having resigned his situation at Newcastle, he retired to Durham, where he spent the remainder of his life. Mr. Harrison is described as dressing very neat, a dark blue coat without a collar, but not exactly a century old in fashion. When he walked out, he wore a triangular hat, and carried a cane with a large amber head to it. He suffered his beard to grow for some time before his death. He was generally known in Durham and Newcastle, by the denomination of *Philosopher Harrison*, which he probably derived from his having in conjunction with Mr. Isaac Thompson, given lectures on Natural and Experimental Philosophy. See *January 6th, 1776, vol. i. page 304.*

December 7.—About twelve o'clock at night, a fire of the most alarming kind broke out in the premises at the Ouseburn, near Newcastle, occupied as a pottery by Messrs. Yelloley and Co., which entirely consumed the same, and the whole of the stock on hand.

A very elegant octagonal light-house, from a design by Mr. Pickernell, engineer, was this year built near the extremity of the

north pier at Sunderland. It is built of freestone, and is 68 feet in height from the pier to the underside of the cap.

1802.—This year a dispensary was established at North Shields under the patronage of his grace the duke of Northumberland. It is supported by bequests, donations, and annual subscriptions.

Several curious brass spear heads were this year found in making a ditch near Cheeseburn Grange, in Northumberland.

1803 (*Jan. 4*).—Died, in Union-street, Newcastle, aged 77, Mr. Luke Long, of eccentric and facetious memory; better known by the appellation of *Doctor Long*. The doctor, in one of his advertisements, says, that he “was a student in Edinburgh, and a pupil in London, and has been in great part of Europe, Africa, and America.” At an early period of life, he had been a surgeon’s-mate in different ships on the coast of Africa; and hence his *exploits, adventures, and hair-breadth escapes*, became ever after, particularly on convivial occasions, the common topics of his prolix conversation. As he claimed consanguinity to the great Doctor Sydenham, he named a son Sydenham Long. After he became stationary in Newcastle, he was for some time employed as an apothecary in the town, but from the various improvements that had taken place in the science, (the doctor strictly adhering to the practice of the *old school*,) his business gradually dwindled into insignificance, and he was afterwards obliged to stock his shop with *ribbons, tapes, blacking balls, brushes, &c.*, in addition to those of *Daffy’s Elixir, Anderson’s Pills, Worm Cakes, &c. &c.*, which singular medley would have formed a very curious catalogue. The doctor was very garrulous, and had something to relate of almost every person and subject. Very early in life he was a candidate for popularity, as the following notice, which was circulated in the year 1759, will testify:—“*Mr. Long, surgeon, on the High Bridge, Newcastle, will bleed any poor person, gratis, at his house, every Sunday Morning, from seven to ten, during the Summer seasons.*” In person he was a short thick man, and assuming a very pompous and dignified demeanour, gave him a very *professional appearance*. He was usually dressed in *black* with a *cocked hat, white wig, and gold headed cane*, the *talisman* of the *old school*.

January 8, 9, 10.—There was a tremendous storm with the wind at east, which did a great deal of damage to the shipping on the coast of Durham and Northumberland.

February 8.—A subscription library was founded at South Shields, supported by annual subscriptions.

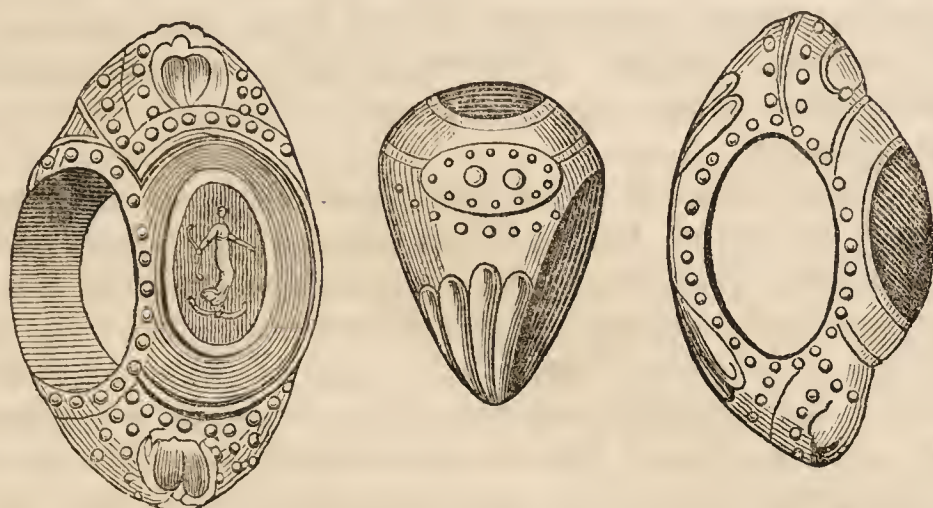
March 13.—Died, at North Shields, Mr. William Morris, shipwright, aged 102 years.

March 14.—An impress by the serjeants at mace and constables, broke out in Newcastle in consequence of the re-commencement of hostilities by the French.

March.—Died, at Birtley, Mr. George Robson, aged 102 years.

April 5.—A gold ring was found in harrowing a piece of ground near Halton Chesters. It weighed 8 dwts. 15 grs., was set with a small blue stone slightly injured, and was afterwards worn by Lady

Blackett of Matfen. The following are representations of the ring and of the stone.



1803 (*April*).—Died, in the Island of Trinidad, Henry Swinburne, esq., the celebrated traveller, youngest son of the late Sir John Swinburne, bart., of Capheaton, in Northumberland. He was educated at Scorton School, in Yorkshire, and afterwards studied at Paris, Bordeaux, and in the Royal Academy at Turin. In 1774, he and his lady travelled on the continent for the express purpose of indulging their taste for antiquities and the fine arts. On his return to England, he retired to his seat at Hamsterley, in the county of Durham. He published his “*Travels in Spain*”, 4to, 1779, and afterwards “*Travels in the Two Sicilies*,” 2 vols. 4to, 1783. By the marriage of his only daughter to Paul Benfield, esq.,* he became involved in the misfortunes of that speculator and obtained a place in the newly-ceded settlement of Trinidad, where he died.

May 9.—Died, of a paralytic attack, Sir Robert Chambers, a native of Newcastle, where he was born in the year 1737, and educated at the Free Grammar School in that town. He afterwards went to Oxford, and in July, 1754, he was chosen exhibitor of Lincoln college, and afterwards became fellow of University college. In January, 1762, he was elected by the university Vinerian Professor of the Laws of England. In 1768, he was offered the appointment of attorney-general in Jamaica, which he thought proper to decline. In 1773, he accepted the appointment of second judge in the supreme court of judicature in Bengal, then first established; Mr. Impey, afterwards Sir Elijah, being chief-justice. In 1780, he received the honour of knighthood, as an express act of royal approbation. In 1782, he lost his son, when on his passage to England for education, in the Grosvenor East India-man. On the resignation of Sir Elijah Impey, in 1791, Sir Robert was advanced to the office of chief-justice, and in 1797, he became

* April 1810, died, at Paris, in indigent circumstances, Paul Benfield, esq., whose fortune on his return from India a few years before, was supposed to exceed half a million sterling.

president of the Asiatic Society. In 1799, he returned to England; and in the autumn of 1802, he went to France for his health, and died in Paris, as above stated. His body was brought to England by his widow, and on the 23d of May, was interred in the Temple church, London. Sir Robert had a brother, William, who was interpreter of the supreme court in Bengal, over which Sir Robert presided.

1803 (*May 10*).—A great number of keelmen were impressed at Shields, by which the coal trade was much impeded. After being inspected, fifty-three were retained and sent away.

June 9.—Died suddenly, at the Wheat-sheaf inn, near the Virginia water, in Windsor Great Park, aged 46, Joseph Richardson, Esq., M. P. for Newport, and one of the proprietors of Drury-lane theatre. Mr. R. was a native of Hexham, and while at college he distinguished himself by the elegance, beauty, and vigour of his prose and poetical compositions. He was the author of “*The Fugitive*,” a comedy; “*Probationary Odes for the Laureatship*,” “*The Rolliad*,” &c. &c. He left a widow and four daughters to lament his loss. On the 13th, his body was interred in Egham church-yard. A portrait of Mr. Richardson is prefixed to his “*Remains*.”

June 16.—The keelmen of the Tyne, who had been impressed on the 10th of the preceding month, returned home, government having agreed to take substitutes for them; and on the 30th, eighty men, raised as substitutes to serve in his Majesty's navy, went down the river Tyne in a keel, to be shipped for the Nore. These were furnished to government at the joint expense of the keelmen to prevent them being liable to the impress.

June 26.—Three tents were burnt down on the Town Moor, Newcastle, supposed by an incendiary.

June 30.—The banking-house of Messrs. Surtees and Burdon, in Newcastle, stopped payment. This to a great number of people was a most disastrous circumstance.

August 2.—The committee who received the enrolment of members to serve in the Newcastle Loyal Associated Volunteer Infantry, finished their sittings, after having sworn in upwards of 1,200 men, who had boldly come forward to serve their country at that important crisis. On the following day, a numerous and respectable meeting of the members was held in the merchants' Court, when the following gentlemen were nominated and approved of as officers:—Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., colonel; M. W. Ridley, esq., 1st lieutenant colonel; Anthony Hood, esq., 2d lieutenant colonel; John Hodgson, of Elswick, esq., 1st major; William Grieve, esq., 2d major; William Ingham, esq., to be surgeon; Isaac Cookson, jun., C. D. Purvis, Malin Sorsbie, Robert Clayton, John Brumell, Thomas Hopper, Robert Yelloley, Thomas Clarke, Thomas Smith, and Dixon Brown, esqrs., to be captains; John Gray, William Lloyd, W. R. Calender, William Boyd, Richard Rogerson, Robert Pinkney, Robert Pearson, Samuel Walker Parker, William Cuthbert, and Benjamin Sorsbie, esqrs., to be 1st lieutenants; William Abbs,

William Wright, Job James Bulman, John Hall, Thomas Rankin, Thomas Smith, jun., William John Grey, William Fisher, Taylor Winship, and William Peters, esqrs., to be 2d lieutenants ; William Dixon, gentleman, to be adjutant ; Mr. Edward Milburn and Mr. William Heaton, to be serjeant majors. August 24th, the members, consisting of ten companies, were marched from their respective parades to the town moor, to receive their colonel Sir M. W. Ridley, bart. The corps was then formed three-deep, and though without their uniforms or muskets, made a formidable appearance. On the arrival of the worthy colonel in front of the line, he was most cordially cheered with three times three by the whole corps. About the middle of October, they received their muskets, and on the 24th, had a general muster for the first time under arms, in a field called Blackett's field, outside of the town's wall, near the Postern gate. Their uniform consisted of a scarlet jacket, with blue facings, cap and feather, white breeches, and full black gaiters. November 22d, the corps marched to the Town Moor, for the double purpose of receiving their colours and being inspected by Colonel Blakeney, inspecting field-officer. Sir M. W. Ridley, on delivering the colours to the ensigns, made a very appropriate speech ; the inspection then commenced, after which the corps went through the various evolutions with great precision. The colonel, after the business of the day was over, presented each company with ten guineas, to make merry with on the occasion. There was also a grand dinner at Loftus's. During the inspection, &c., the Newcastle Volunteers kept the ground.

1803 (*Aug. 9*).—Died, at Newcastle, Mr. William Charnley, aged 76 years, bookseller, and father of the trade in that town ; highly and justly respected for his literary and professional talents, his strict integrity and social worth. His view of human nature was enlarged and liberal, and the natural dignity of his mind was tempered with the purest urbanity. Mr. Charnley, on behalf of the public, strenuously advocated their rights to the valuable library at St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, bequeathed to them by Dr. Thomlinson. A portrait of Mr. Charnley, is engraved for private distribution.

August 15.—John Moses was executed at Durham, pursuant to his sentence, for stealing a quantity of linen-drapery goods, in the shop of Benjamin Jackson, of Barnardcastle.

September 3.—The foundation stone of an elegant new bridge of cast iron was laid on the north side of the river Tees, at Egglescliffe, in the county of Durham. This bridge afterwards fell down.

September 23.—Died, Mr. Joseph Ritson, a native of Stockton, and born Oct. 2d, 1752. Mr. Ritson was bred to the law, but a passion for ancient English poetry, rhyme, and ballad, induced him to become an indefatigable collector in this way. At one period Ritson had possessed a competent property, but it was amongst his anomalies, that, though he detested gambling, he had ventured to speculate with nearly his whole fortune in the funds, and the revulsion consequent on the peace of Amiens, swept away most of

his capital. Under these circumstances he sold a portion of his very valuable library by auction, and the remainder was reluctantly disposed of by his nephew at Leigh and Sotheby's in December 1803. He abstained on a principle of humanity from the use of animal food, and published a book in defence of his opinion. He had a considerable turn for topography, and assisted both Brewster and Hutchinson in their respective histories. Many of Ritson's works (some of which were printed at Newcastle), are become extremely rare. He died in a deplorable state of mental derangement. There is no good portrait of Ritson, only a caricature, a print, and a slight etching (in the *Literary Anecdotes*), both which seem to be taken from the caricature. There is also a black profile prefixed to his memoirs.

1803 (*Sept. 25*).—An explosion took place in Wallsend colliery, by which unfortunate circumstance, thirteen individuals lost their lives.

September 26.—Being the day appointed by Mr. Simon Temple to celebrate the opening of his colliery at Jarrow, the fineness of the day, and the general invitation, drew many thousands of people to witness the passage of the coals to the ship, *Fox*, which lay, highly decorated with colours, to receive them. Early on the morning, the South Shields bells announced the intended feast, and all the ships in Shields harbour immediately hoisted their colours. About ten o'clock Mr. Temple arrived at South Shields, to proceed with the shipwrights, attended by the bands of the Northumberland and Anglesea militias, to the place of festivity, celebrated in early times as the birth place of Bede. Immediately on his arrival in the market-place, the shipwrights took the horses out of the carriage, and drew him, attended by his father and three sons to Jarrow, with flags flying, and music playing. On Jarrow bridge he was met by a large assemblage of gentlemen, headed by Sir Cuthbert Heron, bart., who greeted him on his arrival. Their first step was to lay the foundation stone of a school, for the education of the poor children of the various workmen employed by Mr. Temple. This was done by his eldest son, Mr. William Temple, amidst the plaudits of the whole company. They next proceeded to lay the foundation stone of a building intended as a seminary for the instruction of poor females in offices more suitable to their sex than several of their employments in the north of England. These commendable acts being finished, the procession moved to another part of the estate, to lay the foundation stone of a fever-house and hospital, for such of the families employed in Mr. Temple's various works as might require these comforts. By this time, several of the clergy of the cathedral of Durham, the corporation barge of Newcastle, with several members of that body, and a great number of the most respectable gentlemen from all parts of the country, had arrived. They now proceeded to the more immediate cause of their meeting and the waggons being loaded with coals, were taken to the ship, under the banners of the South Shields loyal volunteers, which were then unfurled, and a general discharge of artillery, the music

playing "*Weel may the Keel Row*," and other appropriate tunes. It was supposed that not less than 10,000 people were assembled on this occasion. In a tent prepared for their entertainment, about 300 gentlemen sat down to dinner. The workmen, in number 500, dined at a long table without. After dinner, a great number of loyal and applicable toasts were given.

1803 (*Oct. 4*).—The Newcastle volunteers, commanded by Lieut-Col. Clennell, assembled near the Forth to receive their colours, which had been deposited in the mansion-house at their previous disembodiment. Thomas Smith, esq., mayor, with a suitable speech, presented the colours to the commander, who addressed the corps in a handsome and appropriate speech, which was received with three times three cheers. The corps went through their evolutions and firings with great precision. The peculiarity of the uniform (very dark green) worn by the company of riflemen attached to the corps, attracted very general attention. Part of the Gateshead volunteers attended to keep the ground. The corps afterwards dined at Loftus's, and spent the day with social mirth.

October 25.—The Newcastle waggon train, consisting of upwards of 150 waggons and carts, with their horses and drivers, enrolled for the service of government in case of invasion, were mustered upon the Town Moor, in the presence of the mayor, and several of the magistrates and other respectable gentlemen. The drivers were dressed in uniform frocks, and the whole had a good appearance.

November 6.—The Durham armed association was again called out on the re-commencement of the war, and had their first parade on the above day. Col. Fenwick resigned the command from ill health in 1806, when a handsome piece of plate was presented to him by the commissioned and non-commissioned officers and privates. November 30th, 1806, Edward Shipperdson, esq., succeeded to the command, and the corps remained embodied till March 24th, 1813, when they had their last parade, and extended their services to the local militia. A handsome piece of plate was presented to Colonel Shipperdson by the officers and privates, April 19th, 1813.

November 16.—The Gateshead volunteers, commanded by Cuthbert Ellison, of Hebburn, esq., paraded in Oakwell-gate, preparatory to marching to the field, where they were to receive their colours. About half-past twelve o'clock they arrived on the ground, which was previously kept by the Newcastle volunteers, when the line was formed, the centre opposite the stand erected for the accommodation of the ladies. As soon as Mrs. Ellison, who presented the colours, had taken her station, supported on the right by the right honourable the earl of Strathmore, and on the left by John Carr, esq., she was received with a general salute, the ceremony then commenced by the regiment going through the manual exercise; after which, three sides of the square were formed by the corps, the stand in front making the fourth. The colonel then

dismounted and ascended the platform, when Mrs. Ellison addressed him in an appropriate speech. She then delivered the colours into the hands of Colonel Ellison, who replied in a strain of manly eloquence; he afterwards addressed the corps, and delivered the standards in charge of the ensigns. After going through various manœuvres, the whole was concluded with a general salute, the colours were then taken to Mr. Bertram's, the Goat-inn, Gateshead, where they were deposited. The right honourable the earl of Strathmore, John Carr, esq., Brook Richmond, esq., rev. Dr. Prosser, and several other gentlemen, together with the officers of the Newcastle volunteers, afterwards dined with the Gateshead volunteers, at Bertram's. The men were regaled at the different public houses in Gateshead with dinners, &c.

As it is impossible within the limits of this work to particularise every corps which came forward in the counties of Durham and Northumberland, on the re-commencement of hostilities, it may be briefly stated, that almost every town and village furnished volunteers, who came forward with an alacrity truly astonishing.

1803 (*Nov. 29*).—Died, at North Shields, Ann Turner, at the very advanced age of 105 years. She retained her faculties to the last.

December 20.—About five o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in the Tyne steam-engine paper mill, at Felling-shore, near Gateshead, belonging to Messrs. Hawks and Co., which, in a short time, entirely consumed the stock, machinery, and buildings.

December 26.—A volunteer corps of artificers for Newcastle, under the command of David Stephenson, esq., architect, took the oath of allegiance in the mayor's chamber. Their uniform was a blue jacket, and trowsers, and a round hat.

December 27.—Died, in the Infirmary, at Newcastle, Thomas Houston, brass founder, aged 26 years. He was the author of "*The Race to Hell*," "*Progress of Madness*," "*Poems, Odes, and Songs*," "*The Term-day, or, the Unjust Steward*," a comedy, and various other pieces of considerable merit. He was interred in the burial ground belonging to the Infirmary.

The chapel at Whitworth, in the county of Durham, was rebuilt about this year.

1804 (*Jan. 7*).—About two o'clock on the morning (Sunday), the cotton manufactory belonging to Messrs. Salvin, near St. Oswald's church, in the city of Durham, was discovered to be on fire in the upper stories; the alarm was instantly given, and the Durham volunteers were quickly on the spot. The inhabitants also assembled in great numbers to give assistance, and although the fire engines had speedily arrived from the different churches, yet the fire continued to gain ground, and at about three o'clock the roof fell in. The flames were now seen for miles around the city, as if bursting from a burning crater. Towards daylight the conflagration abated, but the building was reduced to a shell. The south front fell in at eight o'clock, and other portions gave way in the course of the day.

1804 (*Jan. 18*).—A dreadful fire broke out in the brewery at the Low Lights, North Shields, belonging to Henry Coward, esq. It was first discovered about four o'clock on the morning, and was not got under until considerable damage was done.

February 1.—In the evening of this day, a considerable degree of bustle and confusion prevailed in Newcastle on the subject of invasion. The military, both horse and foot, were all in motion, and the drums of the Staffordshire militia beat to arms. There were strong musters of the Newcastle loyal armed association and volunteers, of the Gateshead volunteers, Usworth legion, and Derwent rangers. An officer's guard was mounted at the headquarters of the Gateshead volunteers during the night, in order to assemble the regiment as quickly as possible, should any further particulars transpire relative to the nature of the alarm. In short, such a display of zeal and ardour in behalf of the country was manifested by all descriptions of men as could not be surpassed. On the following morning, the same cause excited a considerable degree of alarm at Durham. Major Mowbray (notwithstanding several of his corps, were at a few miles distance) despatched messengers, and had his whole corps in readiness to assemble on the Palace-green in less than two hours, fully equipped for the field. The North Durham corps, commanded by Sir Carnaby Haggerstone, were in Berwick all Wednesday. On Thursday, the guards were all doubled, and the volunteers put upon garrison duty; orders were also issued by the mayor, that no person was to be seen on the ramparts after eight o'clock in the evening. Report amused the public during the whole of Wednesday, with a variety of vague and improbable rumours; but the most likely on Thursday was, that the whole had originated in a mistake, of taking the burning of whins on Lammer-muir hills for the lighting of the signals. To prevent a similar mistake, the corporation of Newcastle published the following notice:—"In order to prevent any Alarm in the Country, Notice is hereby given, that the undermentioned Signals, intended to be made use of in in case of Invasion, *but only in the Event of the General Officer, commanding his Majesty's Forces in this District, giving Orders for the Removal of the Inhabitants and Stock of this Town*, will be made for the information of the Inhabitants, on Tuesday the 20th day of March instant, between 12 and 1 o'Clock at Noon, and between 8 and 9 o'Clock in the Evening; and that such Signals will be a Red Flag by Day, and a Light by Night, hoisted at the following Places; (*viz.*)—The Castle, St. Nicholas' Church, All Saints' Church, St. Andrew's Church, and the Tower at the Westgate, accompanied by Five Minute Guns, fired at each of the following Places; (*viz.*)—"The Castle, All Saints' Church, Newgate, and Westgate. THOMAS SMITH, mayor.—*Newcastle, 16th March, 1804.*" Agreeably to notice, the signals were tried at the above places, and they were sufficiently seen in every direction to answer the purpose for which they were intended.

March 24.—The new graving dock at St. Peters' Quay, east of Newcastle, built by Mr. William Row, was completed and took in

the Henry and the Colpits, two vessels of above 300 tons burthen. It was capable of receiving vessels of twelve feet water.

1804 (*April 6*).—About eleven o'clock at night, a most terrible fire broke out in the extensive glass-works belonging to Messrs. Blackett and Co., at South Shields, which, in a few hours, completely destroyed the building, together with most of the stock and utensils contained in the same. The whole of the damage was estimated at £3000.

April 8.—Died, at the house of her grandson, in Gateshead, Mrs. Ann Parkin, aged 104 years. She enjoyed a good state of health till within a few months of her death.

April 12.—Died, at the vicarage house, in Newcastle, in the 45th year of his age, the Rev. Joseph Dacre Carlyle, B. D., and member of the Society of Antiquaries, London. Mr. C. was the son of George Carlyle, M. D., of Carlisle, and born in that city, June 4th, 1758. There he received his early education, and in 1775 entered of Christ's College, Cambridge, which he afterwards quitted for Queen's College. After leaving college, he settled in Carlisle, where he obtained one of the two parish churches, of which he performed the duties many years. In 1793, he took his degree of B. D., and the following year was elected to the professorship of Arabic. In 1795 he was called to the chancellorship of the diocese of Carlisle, vacated by the celebrated Dr. Paley. In 1799, from his great skill in oriental literature, he was appointed by Mr. Pitt to attend the embassy of the earl of Elgin, to the Ottoman Court; to this he agreed, but had no official situation. Whilst at Constantinople he was admitted (according to expectation) into the libraries, and made catalogues of the works which they contained; after a residence of some months in the capital, he undertook, with a small party, a very extensive expedition into the provinces of the empire. His route lay through Asia Minor, and through countries which had not been penetrated by Europeans since the Turkish conquest. This was a very hazardous journey. He spent some time in the Troad, and surveyed with accuracy the site which had been assigned to ancient Troy. After a long journey by land, he took shipping and sailed (touching at many of the Grecian Islands) to Alexandria, where he found Sir Sidney Smith, aboard the "Tigre," with whom he spent six weeks. From Egypt he proceeded into Syria, and spent some time in Jerusalem, and other remarkable parts of the Holy-land, from whence he returned to Constantinople, where he resided some time. He next travelled into Greece and visited the ruins of some of its most celebrated cities. He visited the plain of Marathon, where the monument of Miltiades still remains. With great labour he made catalogues of all the works in the twenty-two libraries which are contained in the twenty-two monasteries of Mount Athos. In this he was assisted by the Rev. Philip Hunt,* chaplain to the embassy. Many of the monks impressed him with a high opinion of their abilities and learning.

* This divine is a native of Newcastle, and had his early education at the Grammar School there.

Before his return to England, he made a tour through part of Italy, from whence he proceeded through the Tyrol and part of Germany, and landed in England in September 1801. During his absence he had visited the most celebrated countries of the old world. Soon after his return he was presented by the bishop of Carlisle to the vicarage of Newcastle, into which living he was inducted October 5th, 1801, but, unfortunately for literature and his friends, he did not long enjoy his promotion. His health had probably been injured by the fatigues of his travels, and the variety of climate he had endured, and he laboured for a considerable time under a painful and distressing malady which terminated his existence as above stated. He lies buried at St. Cuthbert's, Carlisle, with the rest of the family. *See an extract of a letter from Mr. Carlyle to the churchwardens of St. Nicholas, vol. i. page 51.*

1804 (*April 18*).—The agreement was closed between the stewards of the incorporated companies of Newcastle and an agent from government, for eleven acres of ground on the Town Moor, at a rent of £55. per annum, on which to erect a large depôt for military stores, barracks, stabling, &c. These erections were completed in April, 1806.

April 27.—The fair for the sale of live stock opened at Tynemouth for the first time, as did that at North Shields for the sale of all other goods, and for the hiring of servants. The business of the day began at the Bull Ring, North Shields, by the assembling of a number of gentlemen, accompanied by his grace the duke of Northumberland's tenants all on horseback. The proclamation was first read by the bailiff of Tynemouthshire and clerk of the market, when the procession moved forward to the market-place; the duchess of Northumberland's own bagpiper, in his proper habiliments, mounted upon a white pony, and playing the favourite air of "*My Jockey stays lang at the Fair*," in the van; next to him the bailiff of the manor (Mr. Weatherby), and his deputy; then the gentlemen and tenants, two and two. When they arrived at the Post-office, another proclamation was made; they then proceeded to Tynemouth-castle gates, and proclaimed the fair there, and from thence to the place where the ancient cross of Tynemouth stood, in the days of the priory. After making another proclamation, accompanied by three cheers, the piper performed some northern airs in a style that would have done honour to Courtney, Gow, or Allan. The Percy tenantry cavalry attended in uniform, and afterwards dined together at one of the inns, when a number of appropriate toasts were drunk. The fairs are held here twice a year, viz:—on the last Friday in April, and the first Friday in November.

April 29.—The Newcastle volunteers, commanded by Lieut. Col. Clennell, commenced in Newcastle their twenty-one days of permanent duty, which they undertook with an ardour and alacrity highly honourable to the corps.

April 30.—The North Shields and Tynemouth volunteers entered upon permanent duty for one month; the guards of Clifford's fort, Tynemouth barracks, and the Spanish battery, were delivered

up to them. The company in Clifford's fort had not been in possession of it more than four hours, when Major Doyle, of the light brigade, from Sunderland, crossed the Tyne, in a large flat-bottomed boat, accompanied by one company of the 61st regiment, one company of the Northumberland militia, and one company of the Lanark militia. The major galloped up to the fort gate and demanded entrance, but was answered by Colonel Linskill in the negative. The colonel instantly made a signal for reinforcements, when another company of volunteers marched down the hill from Dockwray-square, and commenced a sharp sham action on the Low-lights bridge, while the men in the fort made a sally, and the battle became general; much skill and apparent courage were displayed on both sides, the contending parties at intervals charging bayonets, and the engagement ended in the retreat of the assailants. During the contest, a party of the volunteers crossed the Tyne, and struck the tents of the besieging party.

1804 (*May 25*).—This day (Friday), being the general fast, the Newcastle loyal associated volunteer infantry assembled on their parade ground, from whence they marched to St. Nicholas' church, and attended divine service. The same day their route arrived for the performance of permanent duty for 21 days, upon which they entered with cheerfulness: nearly 800 privates having previously volunteered their services for duty.

May 29.—The Society of Arts presented the silver medal to Mr. William Watson, of North Middleton, near Belford, in Northumberland, for the comparative culture of turnips.

This month, on removing a mound of earth, to make the outer entrance into Tynemouth castle more suitable to the ingress and egress of heavy pieces of ordnance, vast quantities of human bones were found, supposed to be the remains of bodies buried there, after the storming of the castle in 1648, by Cromwell's troops, under the command of Sir Arthur Haslerigg. *See 1648, vol. i. page 102.*

June 4.—All the volunteer corps within a day's march of Newcastle, were assembled on the Town Moor there, and fired three vollies in honour of his majesty's birth-day. The line extended above a mile in length. A great concourse of spectators was present.

June 9.—A very serious riot took place in Berwick, between a recruiting party of the York reserve, and some of the inhabitants. In a short time upwards of a thousand people were upon the street, and swords and bayonets were seen glaring among the crowd in great numbers; the most dreadful oaths and groans were heard in every quarter. The main guard soon turned out, and eagerly rushed forward to the assistance of their officers and comrades, the former having exerted their authority in vain. The utmost confusion and uproar prevailed, and there seemed no mode left of quelling the riot until the mayor, attended by his officers, with the other magistrates, and a considerable number of private gentlemen interfered; their united exertions at length were successful,

after many desperate blows were given and received, and quietness was at last restored upon the soldiers retiring to their barracks. The mayor was several times upon the point of causing the riot act to be read, but this was fortunately rendered unnecessary the moment that the swords and bayonets were sheathed. The conduct of the chief magistrate during the affray was judicious, spirited, and manly; he derived great assistance from the energetic exertions and coolness of Captain Locke of the royal navy.

1804 (*June*).—As some workmen were pulling down an old house at Gallow-hill, in Northumberland, a bag of gold pieces, of the coin of Charles the First was found; the legend *Carolus D. G. Mag. Bri. F. et Hi. Rex.* and XX, behind the head, to denote its value in shillings; and on the reverse, round the arms, *Floreat Concordia Regni.*

June.—Military encampments were formed on the coast of Northumberland.

July 2.—The Gateshead volunteers, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Askew, marched into Newcastle for the performance of three weeks permanent duty. The arrival of the corps was greeted by various peals from the bells of St. Nicholas.

This, and several successive years, the volunteers, generally throughout the kingdom, performed permanent duty.

July 20.—Died, at Burnt-houses, Whickham Fell, Mrs. Dunn, aged 107 years.

July 25.—Between eight and nine o'clock at night, the hold of the sloop *Eliza*, of Aberdeen, lying at Newcastle quay, with a valuable cargo of merchandise on board, was discovered to be on fire. The drums and bugle of the armed association immediately sounded an alarm, when the members of that corps (who had a little before returned from the field), were in a few minutes assembled and proceeded to the Quay, where they were of the utmost service in keeping off the crowd, and protecting the property that was taken out of the vessel. Two engines were managed with so much skill, that about eleven o'clock, the fire was completely got under. The cargo being much burnt and injured, the loss was very great.

July.—A vote having been passed at the quarter sessions, to double the width of the passage of Elvet bridge, in the city of Durham, the work was commenced this month, and the last arch was closed August 4th, 1805. The workmen, in taking down part of the southernmost pillar, found amongst the masonry a noble of Edward VI.

August 31.—A general muster of the Newcastle waggon train, under the command of Captain Davidson, took place upon the Town Moor, when the whole, amounting to upwards of 160 waggons, carts, &c., were assembled. After being minutely inspected, the whole passed the captain in the greatest order and regularity. The corps was officered by a captain commandant, two lieutenants, and five superintendents or ensigns, who held commissions

from the lord lieutenant, and consisted of fifteen troops, each under the immediate direction of a conductor, who was a warrant officer. It was the only regular establishment of the kind (except the royal waggon train) in England.

1804 (*Sept. 12*).—The two volunteer corps of Newcastle, with the waggon train, were inspected on the Town Moor, by the Hon. Brigadier General Grey. The associated corps mustered about 700 privates, and the Newcastle volunteers about 200, all of whom were mounted upon the carts and waggons provided for the occasion, and proceeded in this manner to town. The novelty of the scene drew together an immense crowd of spectators. In case of actual invasion, the plan was admirably calculated to lessen the fatigues of a long march, and to preserve unimpaired the vigour of the troops till the moment of action.

September 27.—A silver cup, value fifty guineas, raised by a subscription of the gentlemen of the Newcastle Hunt, was run for on Newcastle race ground. Out of thirty subscribers, only five started. It was won by Isaac Cookson, jun., esq.

September 29.—About six o'clock in the evening, a most alarming fire broke out in the back premises, known by the name of Coward's yard, in Alnwick, inhabited by poor people, which threatened serious consequences, as many thatched houses were nearly adjoining; but the wind providentially kept moderate. Two engines were soon on the spot, and were well supplied with water, notwithstanding which, four houses in one row, containing nine families, were burnt down.

December 9.—Died in Hexham, Sarah Stephenson, aged 102 years.

A house of recovery, for the cure and prevention of contagious diseases, was this year built without the town's-wall, and a little north of the Westgate, Newcastle.

This year, a superb painting by the celebrated Giordano, representing the last supper, was presented by George Anderson, esq., to the inhabitants of the chapelry of St. Andrew's, in Newcastle, which was placed above the communion table of that church.

Cocken Hall, about four miles north of the city of Durham, this year, became the residence of a convent of nuns, of the order of St. Theresa, from Lier, in Flanders.

1805 (*May 21*).—Died, at Sunderland, Edward Lawson, at the advanced age of 106 years.

May 25.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth rectory, in the sixty-second year of his age, William Paley, D. D. This eminent philosopher and divine of the church of England, was born at Peterborough, in 1743. In 1795, he was presented by the late bishop of Durham (Barrington) to the living of Bishopwearmouth. He was also sub-dean of Lincoln. He was the author of some excellent works, viz. —“*Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy*,” “*Horæ Paulinæ*,” “*View of the Evidences of Christianity*,” “*Natural Theology, or Evidences of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity*,” “*Sermons*,” &c. &c.

1805 (*June 5*).—The Society of Arts presented a gold medal to Mr. William Taylor, of Beamish, in the county of Durham, for improving 308 acres of waste land on Pelton Grange estate.

June 28.—Lord Elibank crossed the Scottish border with the Peebleshire volunteers. The regiment having arrived at Carhamhaugh, in Northumberland, were formed in line, when they fired three vollies and gave three cheers. This was the first Scottish volunteer corps that had entered England in a body. The men, after being plentifully regaled by their officers with several casks of porter, &c., returned to their quarters at Kelso in the evening.

August 7.—The new and beautiful brewery at the Dean, near South Shields, was burnt down.

August 12.—Richard Metcalfe was executed at Durham for the murder of his son-in-law.

August 16.—Thomas Clare, a private in the 2d Staffordshire militia, was executed, according to his sentence, at the Westgate, Newcastle, for the murder of William Todd. He was much agitated at the awful preparation for eternity, so much so, that he appeared nearly dead before his suspension; he made no public confession of his guilt. The murder was committed August 19th, 1804, during the time the regiment was encamped near Hartley.

August 19.—About three o'clock on the morning, a terrible fire was discovered in the colour manufactory at the Ouseburn, occupied by Messrs. Parker, of Newcastle. The flames raged with such fury, that in a short time the building was almost totally destroyed. The damage was estimated at upwards of £4,000.

In the evening of the same day, William Henry West Betty, the young Roscius, aged 13 years, first performed at the Theatre-Royal, Newcastle, in the character of Douglas. He performed thirteen nights, and drew crowded audiences. The receipts during that time were £1889. 16s. 6d., at the advanced prices, averaging £145. 7s. 5d. per night. The last night (13th), he performed *Rolla* for his own benefit, which produced £210. 9s.

October 21.—Died, Mrs. Kidd, mother of Mr. Kidd, flax-dresser in Newcastle, at the great age of 103 years.

October 21.—An explosion took place in Hebburn colliery, by which 35 human beings lost their lives, leaving 25 widows and 81 children unprovided for.

November 28.—An explosion took place in Oxclose colliery, by which unfortunate accident 38 human beings were hurried into eternity, and 18 widows and 70 children were thrown upon the charity of the public.

December 10.—In the evening of this day, was found dead, on the road between Hexham and Haydon-bridge, Mr. Thomas Graham, tallow-chandler, of the latter place. His death was occasioned by a fall from his horse. It was very remarkable, a strange dog was lying by the body when found, and would suffer no person to come near it till forced. It afterwards followed the body to Haydon-bridge, up into the chamber where it was laid, and being banished out of the room, it found his boots in another, and lay down upon

them; it also followed close behind the body to the place of interment, and was seen many days afterwards howling and scratching upon the grave. The dog belonged to Mr. Armstrong, butcher, of Hexham. Mrs. Batey, of the Grey Bull Inn, Hexham, where Mr. Graham set out from, heard a dog howling horribly as Mr. Graham left her house.

1805 (*Dec. 10*).—During the night an extraordinary high tide took place at Shields, and the sea being very high, occasioned the waves to break with great fury against the stone quay at the foot of Tynemouth-barracks, built by order of his royal highness the duke of York. Several of the woodenheads or breakwaters, finished in the most substantial manner, were torn from their places in front of the wall and dashed to pieces. The tide washed down the centry-box near Clifford's-fort, although placed where the water seldom reached. Much old ship timber was carried adrift, and, by driving up and down, damaged and sunk several boats. The sea continued high for some days.

December 26.—Died, at Fenwick-hall, near Stamfordham, in Northumberland, Mrs. Ann Dixon, aged 100 years.

This year, the Postern-gate (part of the town wall), Newcastle, was pulled down. This gate had been of great strength. *See the year 1095, vol. i. page 16.*

An ancient Roman celt was this year ploughed out of Tunstall-hills, in the county of Durham. It was about 5 inches long, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ broad at the edge.

1806 (*Jan. 9*).—Being the day appointed for the funeral of Lord Nelson, at the cathedral of St. Paul, in London, the bells of St. Nicholas' and All Saints' churches, in Newcastle, rung muffled peals at intervals during the day. The great bell of St. Mary's, in Gateshead, was also tolled on the same melancholy occasion. At South Shields, the great bell tolled at intervals, from sun-rise to sun-set, and the ensign on the steeple was hoisted half-staff high; in the evening, a solemn peal was rung from 7 to 8 o'clock, and besides these marks of respect to departed heroism, most of the inhabitants appeared in mourning, and all the ships in the harbour displayed their colours half-mast high. In 1807, Alexander Davison, esq., of Swarland, in Northumberland, erected an obelisk of free-stone, to the memory of the gallant admiral. It stands near the post road, about a mile north of the village of Felton.

January 13.—Died, in Toll-street, North Shields, Mr. William Lamshaw, aged 25 years, her grace the duchess of Northumberland's own bagpiper. This extraordinary performer on the improved small pipes, was grandson of the celebrated piper Lamshaw, of Morpeth, and on his demise, was taken from the band of the Northumberland militia, where he had been since a boy of twelve years' of age. When only eighteen, he played a match against the most famed pipers in the north of England, at Elsdon, before the duke's baronial court, and some distinguished judges, and bore away the prize.

February 8.—Between four and five o'clock on the morning, the

premises occupied by Messrs. Beilby and Hawthorn, watch-glass manufacturers, in Bell's Court, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle, were discovered to be so totally enveloped in flames, that every assistance to extinguish the devouring element, proved unavailing, and the whole were consumed in the course of an hour. The stock, which amounted to between two and three thousand pounds, was entirely destroyed.

1806 (*March 16*).—A fire was discovered in one of the bed-rooms of the house of William Hodshon, esq., at Merry Shields, Northumberland. The flames soon raged with such fury, that the whole inside of the building, with the beds, furniture, wine in the cellar, and valuables to a great amount, were totally destroyed.

March 24.—Died, in the workhouse at Sunderland, Barbara Coag, aged 103 years.

March 28.—An explosion took place in Killingworth colliery, by which unfortunate occurrence ten persons lost their lives.

April 1.—Died, at Gateshead, Ann Maddison, aged 103 years.

April 5.—A terrible fire was discovered in the malting of Messrs. Barras and Co., in Gateshead, which did considerable damage to the building and stock of malt on hand.

April 6.—Died, at South Shields, Hannah Gordon, aged 100 years.

April 7.—As two sawyers in the boat-building yard of Mr. Masterton, near Gateshead, were sawing a well-grown elm tree, they were suddenly stopped in the middle of their work by a harder body than the wood, which, on further examination, proved to be a horse shoe, in good preservation, and which there was no reason to doubt, had been there since the first growth of the timber. It was found in the very core of the tree, where a fine impression of the shoe was made on the surrounding surface. No visible injury appeared to have been sustained by the timber in consequence of this strange companion.

April 20.—This day (Sunday) Earl Percy having attained his 21st year, the morning was ushered in with the ringing of bells at every church in the county of Northumberland. On Monday the celebration of that happy event was of the most harmonious and enthusiastic kind; at Alnwick, in particular, no circumstance in the memory of the oldest person living ever excited such rapturous feelings of congratulation and joy as were displayed in that town on the above occasion. The representatives of the duke at Alnwick-castle also entered warmly into the general enthusiasm, by co-operating with the public in rendering this joyous day an event as memorable as it was important. A large ox was roasted in the market-place, and 700 loaves were provided for the entertainment of the people in the town and neighbourhood. Two pipes of remarkably strong beer, brewed when Earl Percy was born, were brought from Keilder castle, which, with thirty other barrels of strong ale, were also distributed among the populace; and to add to the entertainment, a building was erected in the market-place to contain a band of music, who played during the principal part of the day. The Percy Tenantry, in and about Alnwick, were called up and treated in the most liberal manner. The three companies

of cavalry, and nine of infantry, were entertained at his grace's expense, with an excellent dinner and a bottle of wine each man, and 3s. were allowed for the expense of each horse. An elegant dinner was provided at the White Swan inn, for all the officers of the corps, and the principal gentlemen in the neighbourhood. About 500 suits of clothes were given to the cottagers upon the noble duke's estates. The officers of the Percy Tenantry in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, who could not, without inconvenience, pay a visit to Alnwick, were munificently entertained at the Turk's Head inn in that place, with an elegant dinner, and the day was spent with the utmost conviviality. The Percy Tenantry Infantry were regaled at Mrs. Thrift's market-place, North Shields, and the cavalry at Tynemouth.

1806 (*May 19*).—A plan of the grounds belonging to his majesty at Tynemouth castle, Spanish battery, &c., and of the works raised for the defence of the castle against the parliament's army in the reign of King Charles the first, was taken by order of government.

June 5.—The foundation stone of the New Subscription Library, in Howard-street, North Shields, was laid with great solemnity by William Linskill, esq., high sheriff of Northumberland. A plate, with a Latin inscription, was deposited in the stone. November 5th, 1807, the building was opened with a concert of vocal and instrumental music.

July 5.—Died, in Northumberland-street, Newcastle, in his 85th year, the Rev. Hugh Moises, A. M., many years head master of the Free Grammar School in that town, and justly celebrated for his laborious and successful discharge of that important duty. During the presidency of the Rev. Mr. Moises, the right hon. the earl of Eldon, Lord Stowell, Lord Collingwood, and several other eminent persons obtained the rudiments of their education in this seminary. June 14th, 1787, on the resignation of Mr. Moises, his pupils presented him with an elegant and valuable diamond ring, on which was engraven the following motto:—"OPTIME MERENTI," as a testimony of their gratitude for his attention to and care of their education, which he was pleased to accept in a condescending and gracious manner, highly to the satisfaction of his pupils, whose sorrow on losing so worthy and able a master was unaffected. There never was perhaps a gentleman in a public character as a teacher, whose resignation was more regretted than that of this worthy divine, who had filled that important situation for a period of 37 years with the utmost dignity. Nov. 1810, an elegant mural monument, by Flaxman, with a Latin inscription from the classical pen of Sir William Scott (now Lord Stowell), was placed in St. Mary's Porch, in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, in memory of this eminent divine.

September 10.—Arrived in Newcastle, on a tour through the British islands, their most serene highnesses, Prince Frederick Augustus and Prince Paul George of Holstein Oldenburgh, attended by Count Holmar and Baron Maltzahn.

1806 (*Sept. 11*).—Died, in London, the Rev. John Brand, M. A., Rector of the united parishes of St. Mary at Hill, and St. Andrew Hubbard, in the city of London, and resident secretary of the Society of Antiquaries. Mr. Brand, who was born in Newcastle, in 1743, was of low parentage. He served his time to be a shoemaker, but afterwards obtained learning enough to enter himself of Lincoln college, Oxford, where he took his bachelor's degree, and having been ordained, he became curate of Bolam, in Northumberland. June, 1773, Mr. Brand was presented to the curacy of St. Andrew's, in Newcastle. October 6th, 1774, he was presented to the curacy of Cramlington, in Northumberland, by Matthew Ridley, esq. May the 29th, the same year, he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, London. While a bachelor of arts at the university of Oxford, he published a very pretty poem on "*Illicit Love*," supposed to have been written among the ruins of Godstow Nunnery; and in 1777, he published a very curious work, entitled "*Observations on Popular Antiquities, including the whole of Mr. Bourne's Antiquitates Vulgares, with Addenda to every Chapter of that Work; as also, an Appendix, containing such Articles on the Subject as have been omitted by that Author.*" 8vo. This work he continued to enlarge and improve till his death, when a new edition was published, in 2 vols. 4to., by Mr. Ellis. In 1784, he removed to the rectory of St. Mary at Hill, and St. Andrew Hubbard, London, and in 1786, was appointed one of the domestic chaplains to the duke of Northumberland. June 14th, 1787, at a meeting of the common council in Newcastle, the corporation was pleased to grant to Mr. Brand the honour of dedicating to that body his History of Newcastle, then going to be published by subscription. May 16th, 1789, Mr. Brand announced that his "*History of Newcastle was published, price three guineas, embellished with thirty-four views of the public buildings, &c., engraved by Mr. Fittler.*" This splendid work is in 2 vols. 4to.; the engravings, it is said, cost £500., but the want of a good index is much to be regretted. A small portrait of Mr. Brand is given in the title-page of this work.

September 23.—Died, at Eshe, in the parish of Lanchester, John Hunter, who, according to his own account, corroborated by the parish register of Chester-le-Street, completed his 106th year the previous April.

This month, died at Newcastle, J. Moore, seamen, aged 101 years.

October 14.—The foundation stone of the New Quay and Market-place, at North Shields, was laid, under a triple discharge of nine pieces of ordnance. His grace the duke of Northumberland's bailiff for Tynemouthshire, David Stephenson, esq., architect, and a vast concourse of spectators, attended. The ships in the harbour displayed their colours, and the afternoon was spent at Mrs. Carr's, Half-moon inn, in harmony and festivity.

December 3.—A very alarming fire broke out in the workshop of Mr. John Anderson, joiner and cabinet-maker, in the Bigg-

market, Newcastle, which raged with great fury for nearly an hour, laying the workshop in ruins, and partially injuring an adjoining dwelling-house, before the fire was got under.

1806 (*Dec.* 10).—Died at Gainford, in the county of Durham, Mr. John Cade, an eminent antiquary. He was born at Darlington, in 1734. About sixteen years before his death, he had a paralytic stroke, which deprived him of the use of his legs, and was confined to his bed ever after.

December 12.—Died, in Gateshead, the Rev. John Baillie, aged 66 years. Mr. Baillie had been fourteen years minister of Sallyport chapel, in Newcastle. He published, besides several detached sermons, “*Lectures on the Revelations*,” “*History of the French War from 1791 to 1802*,” and “*An Impartial History of Newcastle upon Tyne*, 1801,” all in 8vo.

December 21.—About ten o'clock on the morning, one of the arches of Haydon Bridge, about 95 feet in span, which had long shewn evident signs of weakness and decay, fell with a tremendous crash, just at the time a number of people were passing to church. One unfortunate man sunk with the ruins to the depth of forty feet, but was taken out alive with a broken thigh bone, and otherwise much bruised.

December 25.—A furious storm of wind from the west was experienced in Newcastle and its neighbourhood. About noon, accompanied with rain, it became an absolute hurricane, in some places breaking down trees, in others tearing them up by the roots. In Newcastle, the massy boards composing the butchers' stalls in the Old Flesh-market, were blown about in every direction; and the wood-work of that well known erection, the Vicarage pump, in Westgate-street, was torn away. Several stacks of chimneys fell; one in the Spital, broke through the roof of a house into the apartments, happily without any injury to the family. At Acomb, near Hexham, a spark was blown from a chimney, and set a stack on fire. The violence of the wind baffled every effort to extinguish the flames, all the stacks in the yard were burnt, and unfortunately the fire extended to the neighbouring cottages, about ten of which were reduced to ashes. The great circular west window in the tower of Shields church was blown in, during the time of administering the holy sacrament; and the organ, standing near the window, was in imminent danger of being overturned, and dashed to pieces, but immediate assistance being had, prevented this effect. Many houses in Dockwray-square were damaged in their roofs, and one man nearly killed by the falling of a stack of chimneys.

December.—Bishopwearmouth church being much too small to contain the increased population of the place, and having become ruinous, the parishioners came to a resolution of rebuilding it. It is raised on the old foundations. The chancel was opened for divine service in 1808, and the whole work finished in 1810. At the same time a new burial-ground was purchased, and, being enlarged by a parcel of the bishop's waste, was consecrated August 9th, 1810.

1806.—The church of Long Newton, in the county of Durham, was this year nearly rebuilt. In 1819, the matrix of a brass seal was found in this church-yard :—"SIGILLUM WILELMI DE BROC ;" and on the inner circle, "G. I. R. E. NOMEN I' ABET." The device, a holy lamb and a cross. William de Broc appears as a witness to charters about the year 1300.

This year, the church at Redmarshall, in the county of Durham, was repaired, and the lead roof removed.

1807 (*Feb.* 28.)—The new Butchers'-market, in Newcastle, was opened for business.

February.—The famous Durham ox was slaughtered. He was bred by Mr. Charles Colling, at Ketton, in 1796, and was supposed to weigh 168 stones, when exhibited as a show in 1801, by Mr. Bulmer, who purchased him for £140., and in the same year sold him to Mr. John Day, for £250. This enormous animal, for which £2,000. was refused by Day, was exhibited for nearly six years in all parts of England and Scotland. When slaughtered he weighed 220 stones.

March 11.—As a loaded coal cart, with two horses, was attempted to be backed to the door of a house near the top of the steps, leading from St. Nicholas' church-yard, in Newcastle, the cart, coals, horses, and man, were precipitated in a moment into Dean-street, a fall not less than thirty feet, without receiving any material injury.

March.—A woman named Hodgson was residing in a cottage near Hexham, on the Beaufront estate, at the great age of 105 years, in the full possession of her faculties, and in perfect good health.

April 8.—Died, at North Shields, Margaret Glanton, aged 100 years.

April 30.—About one o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in the steam corn-mill, belonging to Mr. John Crawford, near the high end of North Shields, which totally destroyed the same, as well as a small house on the opposite side of the street. The damage was estimated at £5,000.

This month, died at a village near Liverpool, the Rev. George Walker, F. R. S., Professor of Theology at the New College, and President of the Philosophical and Literary Society of Manchester. Mr. Walker was born at Newcastle, in the year 1735.

May 1.—A tremendous thunder-storm visited Newcastle and its neighbourhood. The electric fluid entered the dwelling-house of Mr. Jopling, marble mason, in Pilgrim-street, and did considerable damage in the rooms and to the furniture. Providentially no person was hurt, although Mrs. J. and several children were in a small room through which the lightning passed. A horse was killed at Hebburn, in a stable. A man standing on a pit-heap, near the shaft of Urpeth colliery, had both his shoes torn from his feet, without receiving any personal hurt whatever. Great damage was also done in other parts of the country.

July.—A sparrow built its nest at the top of the main-stay of

the Gainsborough Packet, lying at Newcastle Quay, and in it deposited five eggs.

1807 (*Aug.* 11).—Died, in Northumberland-street, Newcastle, Elizabeth Bickett, aged 103 years. Being a water carrier, she for many years enjoyed the title of "*Queen of the Pant.*"

September 5.—A cold wind from the N. E., accompanied with a heavy and incessant rain during the whole day and night, produced so remarkable a swell in the river Tyne, at Newcastle, that next morning (Sunday), the beautiful little island, called the King's Meadows, was entirely under water. Large masses of grain in sheaf (wheat, rye, barley, and oats,) came floating down, and several coal keels, which put off for the purpose, got their loading with part of the wreck. A whole field of oats, the property of Mr. Forster, of Newburn-hall, valued at £300., was entirely swept away; and at several other places, along the banks of the river, similar losses were sustained. At Hexham, the united force of the wind and the rain tore up several trees by the roots; and the low grounds near the town were covered with various descriptions of wreck. In a broad, but confined part of the North Tyne, near Haughton paper-mill, the river was observed to obtain a rise of at least fifteen feet beyond its usual bounds.

September 29.—The foundation stone of the new light-house, near the centre of the front of Dockwray-square, North Shields, was laid; at the same time the corporation of the Trinity-house of Newcastle, contracted with the right honourable Lord Collingwood for another piece of ground in the angle of the Low-light Quay, for another light-house.

This month, a shark eight feet long, and weighing about 300lbs, was taken in the fishermen's nets at Whitburn, and afterwards taken to Newcastle. When opened, upwards of 130 herrings and other small fish were found in the stomach.

October 7.—Earl Percy arrived at Durham and took up his freedom in the butchers' company, to which he was entitled by patrimony. The noble earl ordered an elegant dinner at the Wheat Sheaf for his brethren of the trade. Jan. 1808, a large and elegant silver punch bowl, the gift of Earl Percy, was presented to the company, on which occasion, the company, with several other respectable gentlemen, held a meeting at the Lord Nelson tavern, for the purpose of drinking the health of the noble donor.

November 10.—The foundation stone of the new church at Wall's End was laid in the presence of a numerous and respectable assemblage of spectators. After which, an elegant and appropriate address was delivered by the Rev. Joseph Ireland. April 27th, 1809, this church and burial ground were consecrated by Thomas Burgess, D.D., lord bishop of St. David's. A most excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Henry Phillpotts, (now bishop of Exeter) after which, Mr. Shaw sung a beautiful piece of sacred music. The number of people present was computed at 1,500, and the business of the day was conducted in a very solemn manner. The Wall's End rifle corps lined the passage to the church. This

neat edifice stands only a few hundred yards from the Roman station called *Segedunum*, where stood a temple of Diana, as appears from the remains of sacrifices found there.

1807 (*Nov. 12*).—There was a heavy fall of sleet and snow in Newcastle and its neighbourhood, which found its way even through solid brick walls exposed to the direct operation of the wind, and many houses were deluged. Almost all the shops and the lower stories of the houses on the north side of the Sand-hill and the Close were overflowed from the high banks behind, and much damage was done. The cellars and kitchens of the houses in Pandon were overflowed, and great loss was experienced from the overflowing of the Ouseburn. The quay, to the extent of 100 yards, which was built by Messrs. Hind and Co., was swept away by the current, and great damage was done to the houses and warehouses situated on the banks of that rivulet. Part of an unfinished house, near the church-way, North Shields, was blown down, and a part of the ruins penetrated an adjoining house, but happily no person was injured. The snow did not lie very thick in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, but westward of Hexham, and in the high lands about Alston, the roads were impassable. The storm unhappily proved fatal to Mr. James, farmer near Haltwhistle, who was out in his fields on horseback looking after his sheep, and was found dead not far from his own house, lying on his back, and his horse standing near him.

1807 (*Nov. 14*).—Died, at Fallowden-house, in Northumberland, in the 79th year of his age, the right honourable Charles Earl Grey, Viscount Howick, and baron Grey de Howick, a general in the army, governor of Guernsey, colonel of the 3d regiment of dragoons, and knight of the military order of the Bath. In addition to the honours granted him by his sovereign for his many eminent services to his country during his military career, he received the thanks of both houses of parliament, and the corporation of London presented him with the freedom of the city in a gold box.

November 17.—The officers of the Percy Tenantry Cavalry presented their colonel, the right honourable Earl Percy, at Alnwick castle, with a most magnificent and highly-finished sabre, with a Damascus blade, and on the scabbard was embossed in basso relievo, on one side, the various armorial bearings of the Percy family; on the converse, military trophies under different forms. The whole was the superior workmanship of one of the first artists in London.

December 17.—The warehouses attached to the glass-house at South Shields, occupied by Messrs. Shortridge, Russell, and Barras, were completely destroyed by fire.

December 29.—Three desperate offenders made their escape from the gaol in Newcastle, viz. John Willis, John Blakelock, and David Miller, the first on a charge of forgery, the others under sentence of transportation. Their efforts to break out of confinement had been continued for some time previous to their escape,

as the north wall, through which they retreated, was at least a yard and a quarter in thickness, composed of immense masses of freestone. So silent and secret were their proceedings, that no suspicion was entertained by the gaoler or his assistants, and at the usual hour of inspection and locking up by the turnkey, on the very evening of their escape, all had the appearance of being orderly and safe; their fetters seemed to be as firm as when first put upon the prisoners, and no flaw was observable in the wall. It appeared that the fragments of the wall, which had been removed in the intervals of time between the stated visits of the turnkey, had been so artfully replaced as to elude detection, and the fetters had been cut asunder by implements conveyed to them. The blankets, by which they had descended, were found upon a dung-hill below.

1807 (*December 30*).—A stone coffin, about six feet in length, was dug up in the old church at Hexham, on the north side of the place where the altar has stood. It had a thick stone cover, but no inscription whatever, nor any thing in the inside, excepting the bones of a dove entire, and some small pieces of glass, apparently gilt, but much worn off.

This month, died, at Cullercoats, near Tynemouth, John Ramsay, mariner, aged 115 years. He served in the capacity of cabin-boy on board one of the ships in Sir George Rooke's squadron at the taking of Gibraltar, in 1704. He retained all his faculties till within a few days of his death.

1808 (*Jan. 2*).—The first number of the Berwick Advertiser newspaper, was published by Mr. Henry Richardson, which he continued till his death, Nov. 5th, 1823; since which time, it has been published by his widow, Mrs. Catherine Richardson.

January 14.—During a sudden gale of wind, several fishing-boats belonging to Hartley, Blyth, and Newbiggen, were lost upon the coast of Northumberland, and all their crews perished, leaving many widows and numerous orphan children: of one family, of the name of Robinson, there were lost a father, three sons, and two grandsons. There was a very liberal subscription for the widows and children of the unfortunate men.

January 19.—Died, Robert Melville, of South Shields, aged 103 years. He was a member of the Society of Friends.

January 28.—Died, at Lowry's Mill, near Bellingham, Mr. William Robley, aged upwards of 100 years, 70 of which he lived at Smalesmouth, in the same neighbourhood, as farmer and publican, and was much esteemed for his jokes and merry catches.

March 31.—Died, in Newcastle, in his 89th year, Robert Roddam, of Roddam, in Northumberland, esq., senior admiral of the red. April the 6th, the remains of this gallant admiral were removed to Ilderton, in Northumberland, for interment. He was a descendant of one of the most ancient and illustrious families in that county.

April 13.—The first stone of an elegant new hall, in the Market-place at Darlington, was laid by George Allan, esq., of Blackwell Grange, George Lewis Hollingsworth, esq., and Richard

Hodgson, esq., of Darlington, when a great number of gentlemen were assembled, and gave three cheers. The bells were rung, and there were great rejoicings throughout the day.

1808 (*April 18*).—The remains of Sir Henry Grey, bart., in great funeral solemnity, passed through Newcastle, for interment in the family vault at Howick.

April 21.—Died, in the workhouse of St. Nicholas' parish, Durham, Ann Angus, aged upwards of 100 years.

April 26.—The new parade ground, in Percy-street, Newcastle, was opened for the first time on the evening of the above day, by the Newcastle volunteers, who were inspected there by Colonel Rawdon.

April 27.—A very alarming fire broke out in the bark-mill belonging to Mr. Isaac Richardson, in his tan-yard near the White Cross, in Newgate-street, Newcastle, which raged with such violence, that in less than half-an-hour the mill fell with a tremendous crash, setting fire to four hay-stacks in an adjoining yard, two of which were entirely consumed, and the others very much damaged.

May 17.—Died, John Lord Delaval, of Seaton Delaval, in Northumberland, aged 80 years. June 3d, the corpse passed through Newcastle, for London, in great funeral pomp. The coffin was decorated with masonic emblems, &c. &c.

This month, in digging into a mound of earth, adjoining the south side of the ruins of Tynemouth Priory, a capacious cemetery, or arched tomb, was discovered; some human bones, of a large size, and skulls, were found on the floor, some of them very perfect. It was supposed that this place had not been opened since the dissolution of the Priory, in 1539. *See vol. i. page 72.*

June 4.—In honour of his majesty's birth-day, the new town's clock, placed on the top of the Subscription Library, at North Shields, was first set in motion. The ships in the harbour displayed their colours, and immediately on the clock striking twelve, twenty-one guns were fired. Clifford's fort, the Spanish battery, and Tynemouth castle, also fired royal salutes. The clock was made by the late ingenious Mr. John Bolton, of Chester-le-Street.

At Newcastle, the day was ushered in by peals of bells from the several churches. At 12 o'clock, the Newcastle volunteers were formed upon the Sandhill, and fired three vollies in honour of the day. In consequence of the 4th of June falling on Saturday, his majesty's birth-day was celebrated by the military in the counties of Northumberland and Durham, on the Monday following. On Sunday the following regiments marched into Newcastle and the neighbourhood, for the purpose of being present at the two next days' brigades, viz. :—the East York militia, the Sunderland volunteer artillery, the Sunderland volunteer infantry, the North Shields and Tynemouth volunteer infantry, and the Hexham and Corbridge volunteer infantry. The Gateshead volunteer infantry marched into Newcastle on the same day, for the purpose of being placed on permanent pay and duty for fourteen days. On Monday, the troops assembled on the occasion were drawn up in two columns,

left in front, the one in Northumberland-street and the other in Westgate-street, and in that order marched to the Town-moor, and formed in two lines previously marked out for them. The first line was formed by the following regiments :—four troops of the Enniskillen dragoons, the Gibside cavalry, the Axwell Park ditto, the Tyne legion ditto, a brigade of artillery, the East York militia, the Newcastle volunteer infantry, the North Shields and Tyne-mouth ditto, the Hexham and Corbridge ditto, the Newcastle associated ditto, and the Wall's-End rifle corps. The second line consisted of a brigade of artillery, the Wiltshire militia, the Sunderland volunteer infantry, the Tyne legion ditto, the Gateshead ditto, and the Sunderland volunteer artillery. The two lines together formed upwards of 5,000 men. As soon as lieutenant-general Dundas arrived at the centre of the first line, the signal being given, the troops under the command of major-general Johnstone presented arms in honour of his majesty. The firing of the first line then commenced by battalions from right to left, and as soon as each regiment had fired three vollies, the line was wheeled back into open column, and the second line ordered to advance and pass through the intervals of the first line. Having advanced to the appointed distance, the second line was fired in a similar manner with the first, and then ordered to retire and take post in the original alignement. Both lines now presented arms, and saluted the lieutenant-general. They were next wheeled back into open column of companies right in front, and passed the lieutenant-general in slow and quick time, and again took up their original alignements. The business of the field being over, the troops were formed into a column of sections, and proceeded to their several parades in the town. On Tuesday morning, the two columns were ordered to assemble at six o'clock, in order to proceed by different routes to Throckley Fell,* about eight miles from Newcastle; the right column under the command of lieutenant-general Dundas, and the left under the command of major-general Johnstone. During the march, a brigade of artillery joined the left column at Fenham, by which means a communication was kept up between the heads of the columns, by the firing of signal guns. The Wall's End rifle corps formed the advanced guard of the right column, and the Gateshead light company of the left column, who were joined by the light company of the Wiltshire militia, when the column entered on the Fell. The columns arrived at their places of destination within a few minutes of each other, and, as soon as the first was formed, the left column took up a position in its rear, ready to advance to its support. The ground occupied by the left of the second line was very much broken, the men being, for the greater part of the movements, up to their waists in whins. The firing of the first line soon commenced, and the second line was ordered to file from the right of companies, and advance to its support; having formed and fired, the second line retreated past the first, the retreat being covered by the light troops. After having

* In 1816, an act was obtained for inclosing Throckley Fell.

alternately advanced and retreated several times, the second line by an *eschellon* movement, formed on the left of the first, and by that means presented a single line, extending upwards of a mile and a half. It then fired by companies from centre to flanks, by wings, and by battalions. The whole being formed into open column of subdivisions, crossed the Fell, and passed along the east side, covered by the Wall's-End rifle and Gateshead light company, where the line was again formed, and fired by battalions. The line afterwards wheeled into open column of sections, and retreated off the Fell, covered as before by the light troops. The whole then proceeded on their march to Newcastle, where they arrived about five o'clock. The next day the troops were highly complimented in the general orders that were issued.

1808 (*June 20*).—Died at the foot of the Manor Chare, Newcastle, Mrs. Mary Graham, aged 104 years.

July 18.—A whale was towed into Shields by a sloop, which found it floating near Holy Island. On being cut up, its jaw bones were found broken, supposed by running against rocks.

July 19.—The elegant and commodious Catholic college and seminary at Ushaw, near Durham, was opened for the reception of students, by the ecclesiastics of the ancient English college of Douay. The buildings, which are of stone, form a spacious quadrangle.

Same day, died, at North Shields, Mrs. Jane Olean, aged 102 years.

July 23.—Died, at Whitfield, in Northumberland, Mrs. Isabella Mandeville, relict of the Rev. Richard Mandeville, formerly curate of that parish, aged upwards of 100 years. She had been for some time before her death both blind and speechless.

This month, a Jew found a noble of Henry IV., date 1399, amongst the rubbish of an old house, then pulling down in North Shields' Market-place. It was of pure gold, the impression perfect, and weighed 90 grains.

August 1.—Died, in the Wall Knoll, Newcastle, Mrs. Dorothy Turnbull, in the 107th year of her age. She was born on the 4th of July, 1702, in the reign of Queen Ann, and until within three days of her death, possessed her faculties in an amazing degree. Her memory being little impaired, she could relate, with astonishing exactness, a variety of events which happened during the rebellion in 1715, and almost every subsequent event of any importance. About a month before her death, she made herself a petticoat without the aid of spectacles, when she was heard to observe, that "*she had lived to such an age, that Newcastle could not furnish her with a pair to assist her sight.*" On the Friday preceding her death, she walked to Low Friar street, where she drank tea with a friend, who lived in the curious old house with the ornamented front, but before returning home, she grew very low-spirited, and seemed conscious of her approaching dissolution; the next day, she was confined to her bed, and on the Monday her existence was terminated.

1808 (*Aug. 8*).—Newcastle and its neighbourhood were visited by one of the most awful thunder storms ever remembered. The flashes of lightning were terrific in the extreme. The house of Mrs. Raisbeck, in Westgate-street, Newcastle, was very much damaged. The lightning struck the back part, entered the usual dining-room of the family, shivered a door to pieces, and drove the fragments along the passage into the front room, tore the plaster off the wall, and damaged some of the furniture. Several of the bell-wires in the house were melted, and a black mark of considerable depth left along the walls where they were. Some of the windows were shattered to pieces, and a hole was driven through a thick chimney wall, where the lightning had struck upon a nail. Mrs. Raisbeck and her daughter had a most providential escape, having removed from the room where the principal damage occurred a short time before, to avoid the glare of the lightning. In the next house, occupied by Mr. Jobling, some of the bell-wires were melted, windows broken, and the top of a bed post-struck off. A painter at work in the inside of the house, next door to Mr. Jobling's, was struck down, but being bled, he recovered. Some tiles were taken off Mr. Leighton's house on the opposite side of the street, but no other damage was sustained than that caused by the torrent of rain which rushed in. Two men at work in the neighbouring chapel were thrown against each other by the shock, but not much hurt. The house of Mr. Farrington, in the Bigg-market, was also struck, and the bell-wires of two rooms and the staircase melted. The common sewer at the head of the Side was so full charged with water in consequence of the heavy rain, that the pavement was forced up for several yards, and the water issued from the aperture for a considerable time, as if thrown from an engine. The lightning struck the house of James Losh, esq., at Jesmond, in two places. The funnel on the top of the library chimney was broken in pieces, thence it passed down the chimney into the library, throwing down the soot, and singeing the hearth-rug. It also entered by a window on the stair-head, struck a barometer hanging by the side of the window, which it shivered to pieces, passed along all the bell-wires, and went round the gilt frame of a large picture in the drawing-room, which it completely tarnished, then pierced the wall a little above the chimney-piece, and disappeared. A large rent was likewise made in the wall, communicating with a closet in the kitchen, the lock of the door forced off, and two balls of fire appeared to the servants to fall on the kitchen floor, and escape by the door. Fortunately no one was hurt, although part of the family were on the stair-head when the barometer was broken, and the servants were in the kitchen when the fire passed through it. Mr. Maddison's house, at Birtley, was struck, the funnels thrown from the chimneys, several windows with their frames torn in pieces, and the coping-stones on the gable end of the house carried to a considerable distance. At Lumley, near Chester-le-Street, the lightning entered the roof of a house, and killed a woman in the lower room. Mr. John Sheradon, of Houghton-gate, had a cow

killed in a field near that place. Mr. Kirkup, of Urpeth, had seven lambs killed near his house. The lightning entered the roof of the house of John Cole, at High Chater's Haugh, and forced off the head of the clock, and broke it to pieces; it then went up the chimney, without doing any further damage. At Dipton, a horse and several sheep were killed in the fields. The Seven Stars public house, on Gateshead Fell, was also struck; some cattle were also killed in that direction. Some women in a cart had a narrow escape, as the cart was much damaged. A windmill belonging to Mr. Hodgson, on the Leazes, near Newcastle, was struck, and two of the wands were completely shattered, and a large piece of iron carried to a considerable distance. A pike of hay was entirely burnt at Cramlington. As the daughter of Mr. Pollock, sign of the Rose, Half-way-bank, between Shields and Newcastle, was standing at the back door, with a comb in her hand, the lightning struck the back of the comb, singed it, and curled up some of the teeth, without doing the least injury to the girl. A new smelting-mill at Derwent-heads, near Blanchland, was nearly swept away by the flood, together with a considerable quantity of lead ore.

1808 (*August*).—This month, the White Cross, in Newgate-street, Newcastle, was taken down, and put up in a somewhat different form in the New Butchers'-market. *See August, 1784.*

September 1.—Martin O'Bryan was executed at Morpeth, pursuant to his sentence, for robbing and cutting the throat of Barbara Weir, upon Shields' road. Being a Roman Catholic, he was attended to the place of execution by the Rev. Mr. Lawson. He seemed quite reconciled to his fate, and died penitent.

September 4.—There were great rejoicings at Newcastle, on the arrival of the news that Sir Arthur Wellesley (the present duke of Wellington) had defeated the French under the command of general Junot, at Vimeira, in Portugal, on the 21st of the preceding month. This was the first engagement between the English and the French on the peninsula.

September 20.—Died, at Berwick, Mrs. Isabella Hounim, aged 104 years.

October 6.—Died, near Corbridge, Mrs. Hodgson, aged 105 years.

November 3.—At four o'clock in the afternoon, his Majesty's ship the *Bucephalus*, was launched from the building yard of Mr. William Row, at St. Peter's Quay, near Newcastle. She was rated in the Navy List at 32 guns, but was pierced for 52, and measured 970 tons. An immense concourse of spectators was present at the launch. The bells of St. Nicholas' church rung a merry peal in honour of the event. November 17th, was launched from the same yard, a very handsome small ship of war, called the *Woodlark*.

November 8.—A dreadful fire took place at East Lilburn, in the parish of Eglington, in Northumberland. As Mr. Brewis's servant was going to bed with a candle, about ten o'clock, either from a spark from the candle or not extinguishing it, the stable caught fire, and, melancholy to relate, ten horses were all burnt to death, and the lad escaped with difficulty, without his clothes.

1808 (*Nov. 13*).—A new Methodist chapel was opened at Durham, for public worship; the Rev. Jabez Bunting, of Sheffield, preached to a crowded audience, from Psalms, xx. verse 4.

November 29.—An explosion took place in Harraton colliery, Durham, by which unfortunate occurrence four human beings and twenty-one horses lost their lives. The coal was set on fire by this explosion, and the pits were tightly scaffolded to exclude the air, for the purpose of smothering out the fire. The pits were opened out at the end of two months, when the fire on the coal was found to be extinguished; but, to the astonishment of every body, a pony was found alive, and in high condition. This pony had a trick of slipping his halter, and wandering about the workings. The explosion happened just after the men had finished their day's work, and the horses, 22 in number, had been tied up in the stables. It was supposed that this pony had slipped his halter, and gone upon his rambles as usual, as all the remaining 21 horses were killed in the stables by the explosion. It would seem that the life of this pony had been preserved by the fresh air which was sent up in the rise part of the workings, and he had lived upon the forage of his dead companions. He survived the accident many years.

December 15.—A terrible fire broke out betwixt one and two o'clock on the morning of this day, in a kitchen, under the shop and parlour of Mr. George Carr, tallow-chandler, Hexham, which threatened destruction to a vast pile of buildings, and it was not known to the family above, until they were almost suffocated. Mrs. Carr, Miss Robson, and three of the children, threw themselves from the window of the room above the parlour, with very little injury. Two other children, nearly suffocated, were taken from an upper room, by Mr. James Meston. The fire was occasioned, it was supposed, by a spark falling upon some linen upon a clothes-horse.

December 22.—A very alarming fire took place in the mansion of Charles John Brandling, esq., at Gosforth, exactly at the moment of the family sitting down to dinner, which was occasioned by the careless manner of joiners, in the erection of buildings, driving wooden plugs into the walls of the chimneys, for the purpose of fixing their joiner-work. In this case, the wooden plugs, to which the joiner-work of the elegant saloon was fixed, took fire, from the heated chimney of the library. However, the devouring element was happily discovered in time, and fortunately extinguished by the active exertions of the family and domestics, before that any considerable damage was sustained. Had it happened during the night, the consequences might have been dreadful.

December 24.—Being Christmas eve, the clock which graces the tower of Durham cathedral first began to chime the quarters. It is the workmanship of the late ingenious Mr. John Bolton, and is put in motion by a clock which stands upon the ground floor, at a distance of above 300 feet. This last, which was placed there by Dean Hunt and the chapter, in the year 1652, is a very elegant and

curious piece of mechanism. It exhibits a view of the planets and their motions, and shews the variations of the moon; it points out the day of the month, and the moon's age, with several other curious exhibitions.

1808.—This year, nearly the whole of the old castle of Ravensworth, Durham, was taken down, and the present splendid mansion was begun, on a beautiful Gothic plan furnished by Nash. The castle has three fronts, north, south, and west; the eastern side is closed in by offices in which are incorporated two of the old towers. Near Ravensworth castle is a stone column, evidently the shaft of a cross, concerning which there is a tradition, that it was one of the crosses erected to hold markets at, during the great plague at Newcastle, in 1636; the produce of the country at that time, not being allowed to be exposed for sale at a less distance than three miles from the town. *See 1636, vol. i. page 89.*

A school on the Madras system was this year established at Wearmouth, under the personal direction of Dr. Bell, and a neat school-house, with two separate rooms for the boys and girls, was built by subscription, opposite to the west end of the church. The whole expense amounted to about £500.

About this time, the remains of a fine sudatory were discovered at Whitley Castle, at its north-east corner, out of which issued a clear and plentiful spring. In September, 1810, many of the pillars of the hypocaustum were standing, covered with large thin slabs of freestone, and a strong calcareous cement.

This year, in breaking up a freestone quarry, near Bamborough, where the ground seemingly had never been opened before, a vast quantity of the horns of deer (supposed to be red) were found buried full four feet under a solid body of earth. Most of them, when exposed to the air, mouldered and fell in pieces, except two, which were in high preservation. They were each about three feet long, and all their ramifications quite entire. They were carefully suspended in Bamborough Castle as curiosities. In digging them up, it appeared that whole carcasses had been entombed there, for the skulls of some of them were not severed from the horns, and even an offensive smell arose from the soil in which they were buried.

This year, some workmen employed in lowering the foot-path, near the north-west porch of Monkwearmouth church, discovered the effigy of a Benedictine monk in his full habit, the hands clasped on the breast. The figure was placed in the chancel of the church.

This year, died, at Berwick, John Chisholm, aged 74 years. He had served under General Wolfe at Quebec, and was reckoned one of the best swordsmen in the army. On his retirement from the army, he became a Chelsea pensioner. It was believed that he was heir-at-law to a large property. Though, like Dancer and Elwes, he was continually employed in picking up pieces of rope, stick, &c. in the streets, upwards of 500 guineas in gold were found secreted in various parts of his house.

Robert Sanderson, who also served under General Wolfe, died

at Ford, in Northumberland, August 7th, 1807, aged 85 years. As Chisholm was a good swordsman, so Sanderson was famous as a marksman, and he is generally understood to have been the man who shot the French commander, General Montcalm. He was orderly sergeant to Wolfe, and is the man represented in the print of the death of Wolfe, as supporting the general after he received his death wound. At page 226, vol. i., in a note, he is, by mistake, said to be ordinary surgeon.

1809 (*Feb.* 10).—As some workmen were digging the foundation of a new waggon-way through the estate of John Stafford, esq. of White-house, near Newcastle, an immense quantity of very valuable and ancient coins of gold, silver, and copper were discovered.

February 26.—A very elegant chapel, in Chapter-row, South Shields, for the Wesleyan Methodists, was opened by the Rev. Mr. Isaac, who preached to a crowded audience. The chapel was built by subscription.

March 8.—Died, at Washington Wood, Sarah Hudson, aged 101 years.

In the spring of this year, died, and was buried at Bellingham, in Northumberland, Edward Coulson, an eccentric character. He was the son of John and Susannah Coulson, of Haydon-bridge, and born April 28th, 1754. His father was a joiner and wheelwright, he also cleaned clocks and watches; his mother was *une sage femme*. The old man himself seems to have had his eccentricities. On one occasion, having made a coffin which did not please the party who ordered it,—“Never mind,” said John; “it’s not fine enough for him, but it will do for me.” He kept it the remainder of his life, and it served the purpose for which it was reserved. Edward’s infancy is said to have been marked by an extreme slowness in learning to speak, so that, till five years’ old, his playfellows called him *dummy*. He learned his father’s art, and could work well as a turner, making racks, reels, and spinning-wheels. When arrived at maturity, he was about five feet ten inches in height, of fairish complexion, very bony, and surprisingly strong; but his chief peculiarity was extreme swiftness. He had a brother, William, who was an excellent runner, and is said to have lost his life by pursuing a beast which had broke loose, and in following which he swam across a river. Ned ran much about the country cleaning clocks; he was also a glazier, and travelled chiefly by night, dragging a small cart after him. This rendered him a very peculiar object on the road; it was a small two-wheeled cart, with two shafts, like an ass cart, in which he carried his work-tools, materials, victuals, and such things as he picked up about the country. He was a fiddler, not perhaps remarkable as a good one, but he could boast of an attainment which is much less common—he could perform whilst he ran along the road, and even with the instrument behind his back. He could easily run before a post-chaise, and has often alarmed travellers by passing them, then hiding himself, repassing, and at length bidding them good night. He had a method, by putting his finger in his mouth, of producing a sound somewhat

resembling the report of a pistol, and this he mischievously employed to intimidate travellers. He often travelled to great distances from home, as to Jedburgh, and other parts beyond the Scottish border. One of his feats which attracted notice, was his going to Stanhope-in-Weardale, on an express errand, one winter, when the state of the roads, owing to an extraordinary storm, was such as to render them almost impassable. His courage seems to have been equal to his strength and swiftness : it is stated that he went to a lonely church at midnight, and rung the bell ; but he gave better proof of his fearlessness, by walking along the parapet of the bridge at Haydon-bridge, with two pecks of corn on his back, which he was often seen to do. Having been out on one of his excursions, at the period when this bridge was in part taken away by a flood, he could not, on his return, get across with his cart ; some workmen, however, managed to drag it over, whilst he made his way through the water alone. This is believed to have caused his death ; he got a cold which fixed on his lungs. Feeling his end approaching, he desired to be removed to the residence of a person of his own family name, who lived up North Tyne ; here he soon died, not surviving his removal more than a few weeks. He was never married ; in his dress he affected a shabby gentility, wearing ruffles at his breast ; he carried a staff of a peculiar sort, a thick twisted stick, which was his constant companion. Ned had his antipathies as well as prepossessions ; he entertained a particular aversion to swine, and abhorred their flesh, professedly in observance of the Jewish law. His residence was near that part of Haydon-bridge called the Broad-stone, one of the cottages on the right hand, on entering the town from the east.

1809 (*April 16*).—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Mr. John Pattison, aged 104 years. He enjoyed all his faculties till within a few days of his death, particularly his eye-sight, as he could read the smallest print without glasses.

May 11.—Being Ascension-day, a terrible accident happened as the barges passed up the river, on board of the Hartford, lying at Newcastle quay. Thomas Heron, the mate, having fired a gun in salute, was reloading it without spunging, when the charge took fire, and blew him overboard into the river. A finger was left on board, and, from the circumstance of his hat being much cut, it was supposed that his head had been blown off.

May 15.—The inhabitants of Alnwick and its vicinity were gratified by the completion of an undertaking hitherto unattempted in that quarter, viz. the delivering of coals at Alnwick, from Shilbottle colliery, by waggons conveyed along a metal rail-road.

May 17.—The opening of the waggon-way from Bewicke main to the river Tyne took place, on which occasion every road leading to it was crowded with passengers at an early hour, and before eleven o'clock, about 10,000 people were assembled. About this time, four waggons of small coals were brought up the first plane by the steam-engine, to the great admiration of the spectators ; but owing to some little difficulties which often occur in new

machinery, the four waggons of best coals, intended for the Tyne, did not start till a much later hour. As soon as the waggons reached the summit of the second and highest plane, up which they went with surprising velocity and regularity, the British flag was hoisted at Ayton cottage, and announced by a discharge of six pieces of cannon, which were answered by an equal number from the *Ann and Isabella*, his majesty's armed ship on the Tyne, and from Deptford-house, the residence of Mr. Cooke. Immediately on the waggons reaching the first plane, about 400 gentlemen sat down to dinner, in a tent fitted up for the occasion. An excellent military band attended. In the evening, in order to prove the excellence of the level railway, six men, without horses, took with the greatest ease four laden waggons, with each ten men on the top, from Ayton cottage to the Tyne; and the first coals being put on board the *Ann and Isabella*, the same was announced by discharges of artillery as before.

1809.—In the spring of this year, as some workmen were leveling a piece of ground on an allotment of Aydon Common, in Northumberland, belonging to Mr. Bulman of Newcastle, they found an urn with the mouth downwards, which would hold about four gallons, having a smaller one within it, with the mouth also downwards, and which contained a quantity of small bones, which crumbled to pieces on being removed.

May 30.—The Society of Arts presented to Mr. Luke Clennell, a native of Morpeth, and who had been a pupil to Mr. Thomas Bewick, of Newcastle, a medal for an engraving on wood of the Highland Society's diploma. *May 27th, 1806*, Mr. Clennell was presented by the same society with the gold pallet, for an engraving on wood of a battle.*

June 9.—The drying-house of Mrs. Cook at Athelstone Abbey paper-mill, near Barnardcastle, was discovered to be on fire. She and her two daughters, in endeavouring to remove what paper possibly could be saved, were soon enveloped in flames. The neighbouring farmers, after the alarm was given, were obliged to break in the shutters, and with much difficulty got them out of the place from the top windows. Mrs. Cook was carried down apparently lifeless, and expired the next day; the eldest daughter leaped out of one of the windows, but so much burnt that her life was despaired of; the other was carried down in the same manner as her mother, nearly suffocated.

July 31.—A grand masonic procession took place from the Granby lodge-room, in Old Elvet, Durham, at half past eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the county courts, new gaol, &c., in that city. It was performed by Sir H. V. Tempest, bart., P. G. M. *pro tem.* assisted by R. J. Lambton, P. G. M., and the officers and brethren of the provincial grand lodge of the county, in presence of the lord bishop

* The wood cut of the Life Boat at page 352, vol. i., is the work of this great artist.

of Durham, the magistrates, clergy, and gentry of the county, and the corporation of the city. When the masonic procession were in the street, they were honoured with a salute from Colonel Shipperdson and the Durham volunteers, who were drawn out to join them; and the bishop of Durham, magistrates, &c., joined in the procession soon after. When the front of the procession arrived at the ground, the volunteers filed off, and formed three sides of a square to keep the ground. When the grand master arrived in the trench, he, with the provincial officers, formed on three sides of the stone, and the bishop, magistrates, &c., at a little distance on the fourth side. The bishop then deposited gold, silver, and copper coins of the reign of King George III., in a chamber in the stone, which was covered by a plate, with a suitable inscription. The masonic ceremony of laying the stone having been gone through, the volunteers saluted, the band playing "*God save the King.*" The procession then proceeded to the Assembly Rooms, in the Bailey, where the bishop took his leave, and the company sat down to an excellent dinner. The county courts were opened August 14th, 1811. The prisoners were not removed from the old gaol and house of correction till August 4th, 1819.

1809 (*August 1*).—A violent thunder storm, accompanied with rain and hail, took place at Alnwick; the electric fluid entered the house of Major Castles, and shivered a bed-stead to pieces, tore the wall in several places, and completely demolished the bell-wires; a servant maid was in the bedroom, but escaped unhurt; it left such a sulphureous smell in the house that they could scarcely breathe in it for some time.

August 3.—An awful storm of thunder, lightning, and hail passed over Newcastle. The lightning entered the house of Mr. David Sutton, in Prince's-street, and did very great damage. It first struck the chimney, which it threw down, partly into the street, and partly into the house. It then followed the direction of the chimney into the sitting parlour, in which eight persons were at tea, bringing down a quantity of bricks and soot along with it, dashed over the urn and broke the cups, but fortunately injured no person; it shivered the book-case, seized the bell-wires, which it melted all over the house, following them from room to room in an upward direction; it tore the stair case up in its passage, broke the glass of the clock, and stopped it, and split three bed-poles to pieces, fusing some of the iron work, and finally passed out at the roof. In the different rooms, twenty-eight squares of glass were broken and forced outwards, and in one of the rooms, Mr. Sutton had a most providential escape, being there with the intention of shutting a window at the time it was struck. The lightning appeared in the parlour like a globe of fire; which afterwards divided into small globules that burst like a rocket. The oxydation of the bell wires produced an effect beautiful beyond description. The door jamb of an adjoining house was torn off. The lightning also struck down a chimney, and entered the roof of Mr. Edward Humble's (bookseller) dwelling-house, near the Forth, and at the same instant shattered one of the pillars of the front door, com-

municating with and destroying all the wires of the bells in the first and second stories, shattered the stock of a gun in the kitchen, also the window shutters of three rooms, singeing the paper, and tossing about the lime from the tops of the windows where the bell-wires communicated; then burst out of the back stair-case window with a dreadful explosion, similar to the discharge of a cannon, and filling the rooms with a black sulphureous smoke. None of the family were materially hurt; Mrs. Humble was deprived for a few minutes of her hearing, and experienced a numbness in one arm; one of the maid-servants was slightly scorched in one. The lightning set a bark mill near St. Andrew's church on fire, but fortunately it was extinguished without much damage, except to the wands and one beam. Mrs. Hawks' house, near Jesmond, was struck, and the works of a gold watch, which was hanging up in one of the rooms, were melted, and considerable damage was done to the walls, pictures, &c. The lightning struck the house of Mr. P. Dale, of Walker, near Newcastle, threw down the chimney and a great number of tiles, broke seventeen squares of glass, tore off the window shutters, and dashed them against the garden pales, scattered the plaster about the house, and filled the rooms with a sulphureous smoke, but did not injure any of the family. A horse was killed by it at Coxlodge. The hailstones, or rather pieces of ice, were very large, and fell in great abundance.

1809 (*Aug.* 12).—One of the heaviest showers of rain ever remembered fell in Newcastle, and its neighbourhood. It continued with little intermission for the space of six hours, with such violence, that every brook and rivulet were swelled to a most alarming height. The small stream of water, which runs through Pandon, in that town, overflowed its banks, and inundated most of the houses in New Pandon-street and the Stock Bridge, to the depth of three to four feet of water. A boy, named George Innis, about five years old, son of George Innis, smith, Pandon-gate, had a most miraculous escape. Whilst amusing himself along with several other children, with wading in the water near the mustard-mill, at the foot of Pandon Dean, he ventured too much into the stream, and was swept away, by the impetuosity of the current. Near the place from whence he was taken away, the water enters an inclosed conduit, through which he was carried for the space of three hundred yards, and precipitated with great fury down a fall of sixteen feet in the midst of its course. At the extremity of the conduit, he was most providentially perceived by a man, who, at the imminent hazard of his own life, sprang into the water, and succeeded in rescuing him from his perilous situation; and such was the rapidity of the current, that it was with great difficulty the man was himself prevented from being borne away by it. The boy, when first taken out, exhibited very little appearance of animation, but in a short time he came to himself, having received only some bruises. At four o'clock the same afternoon, a short but severe thunder storm passed over that town. A man of the name of Henderson, of Angerton Moor, who had run for shelter into a shed at the Cowgate on the town-moor, was,

together with four horses, struck dead by the lightning. It was somewhat remarkable, that the hat of the deceased was torn from his head, and forced upwards with such fury, as to be closely jammed in the crevice of two boards which were placed immediately over the place where he had been standing. Another man and a boy, and two other horses, in the same place at the time, were also struck down, but afterwards recovered. Several cows and horses at the fair, at that time holding on the Cowhill, were scorched by the lightning. A man named Liddell, servant to Mr. Freeman, miller, near West Jesmond, in endeavouring to cross the Ouseburn, near that place, with a horse, was unfortunately drowned; the horse was saved.

1809 (*Aug. 16*).—Lord Barnard, the eldest son of the earl of Darlington, attained the age of 21 years, upon which occasion, a plentiful dinner was provided at Raby castle, for his lordship's tenantry. The park guns were fired at one o'clock, and a ball was given to the tenants' wives and daughters in the evening. An ox was roasted whole at Darlington, and distributed with plenty of bread and ale to the populace; another was roasted and distributed in like manner at Piersebridge; a third at Staindrop; a fourth at Cockfield; a fifth at Barnardcastle, and a sixth at Middleton-in-Teesdale, at all of which places, there were great rejoicings.

August 19.—John Boyd was executed at Morpeth, pursuant to his sentence, for a forgery on the Durham Bank. He was taken to the place of execution in a chaise; and being a Roman Catholic, was attended by the Rev. Mr. Lawson. He was handsomely dressed in a suit of black, with black silk stockings, in which attire, at his own request, he was deposited in the earth. This unfortunate young man, who was only twenty-four years of age, had very respectable connexions in Ireland, but had assumed a false name, that this history of his guilt might never reach the knowledge of his friends and relatives.

September 14.—An explosion took place in Killingworth colliery, by which unfortunate occurrence twelve human beings lost their lives.

October 8.—In the evening, two daughters of Mr. John Storey, of Cambo, near Blyth, one aged 22, and the other 11 years, were unfortunately drowned. The father had been fishing at sea for his amusement, and returned in the evening; the eldest daughter went to assist in securing the boat, the younger remained at a distance with a light, which, suddenly disappearing, the elder went to ascertain the cause; but the unhappy father beheld them no more alive. It was supposed that they had got on a quicksand at the edge of the river, and then fell in. *October 25th*, the unhappy parent, in a fit of despondency for the loss of his daughters, terminated his life by throwing himself into the river with a large stone tied about his waist. He left a widow and six children, the youngest at the breast.

October 17.—Mr. Sinton, of the Shield-field mill, near Newcastle, having stopped the mill and ascended the wands to adjust

the sail, the brake suddenly gave way, and he was carried round upon the wand with great velocity for near a quarter of an hour. His distressing situation being perceived by the men of Pandon Dean mill, assistance was immediately sent, and he was rescued from his perilous situation without having received any bodily injury; it was, however, a considerable time before he recovered his recollection.



1809 (*Oct. 25*).—The jubilee, on his majesty's (King George III.) entrance into the 50th year of his reign, was celebrated in Newcastle by public rejoicings, and acts of munificence and liberality;—it having been ascertained that it would be more grateful to the feelings, not only of the monarch, but also of the subject, that in lieu of an illumination, a collection should be made for the foundation of a public school, upon the plan of Mr. Lancaster and Dr. Bell, several respectable persons obligingly undertook to wait upon the inhabitants on the two preceding days for their contributions, when upwards of £600. were collected. By another subscription, commenced amongst the ladies and gentlemen, ten prisoners were liberated from the gaol. To this last the corporation subscribed 50 guineas, and the members of parliament for the town 30 guineas, making in all £186. 17s. 6d. The day was ushered in by the ringing of bells, the flag was hoisted on the castle, flags were also displayed upon some of the churches, and also by the ships in the river. The Union Society of change-ringers rang in St. Nicholas' belfry a complete peal of Holt's grand-sire triples, consisting of 5,040 changes, in three hours and nineteen minutes. The Newcastle associated volunteer infantry, under the command of Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., marched to St. Nicholas' church, as did also the West Suffolk, the Royal artillery, and the 6th dragoons; the mayor and magistrates attended divine service, also lieutenant-general Dundas and his staff; an excellent sermon, from the 3d chapter of St. Paul's epistle to the Hebrews, part of the 4th verse, was preached by the Rev. John Smith, A.M., vicar; after which the above-mentioned corps, with the Newcastle volunteers, and South Tyne legion, proceeded to the town-moor, where they were drawn up in line, and after the artillery had fired a royal salute of 21 guns, made three excellent vollies in honour of the day; they then marched past lieutenant-general Dundas. The volunteers proceeded to the Sandhill, and fired three vollies. The mayor, the members of the town, the sheriff, Lieutenant-general Dundas and his staff, Sir C. M. L. Monck, and about 80 gentlemen, dined at Loftus's; the band of the armed association attended. Upwards of 500 poor persons belonging to the parish of St. Nicholas dined in the yard of the poor-house of that parish. By the hospitality of major Anderson, and a few other benevolent burgesses, the poor members of the Freeman's Hospital, in the Manor Chare, dined together, on the green before the house. The boys and girls in each of the charity schools were dined, by order of a party of

gentlemen, who, after the children had dined, ordered the teachers a dinner, and a bottle of wine each. Sir Cuthbert Heron, bart., distributed beef and bread to fifty poor housekeepers in Gallowgate. The congregation of the Rev. William Turner, in Hanover-square, gave to each of the poor belonging to that chapel, beef, bread, porter, tea, and lump-sugar, to be used at their own houses. Lieutenant-colonel Burdon presented the officers of the South Tyne legion with a dinner, at Forster's, the Queen's-head inn; and an elegant cup, of the value of £120., was presented by the non-commissioned officers and privates of that regiment to their commandant, who provided a dinner for them, in a field near West Jesmond. In the evening, there was a ball and supper at the Assembly-rooms, which was numerously attended.

The inhabitants of the city of Durham evinced their attachment to their sovereign, by various acts of munificence, extending to their dependents and inferiors satisfaction and comfort, and expressive of their own contentment and happiness. Exclusively of a large sum appropriated by the reverend the dean and chapter for the liberation of prisoners confined for small debts, a general collection, amounting to £120., was made and distributed to more than 1,000 poor families. Thomas Wilkinson, of Oswald-house, esq. presented to a great number of poor old persons two shillings and sixpence each; upwards of 500 charity children were also enabled to participate in the general festivity. Besides the masonic, there were several select dinner parties. The ball and supper at Alsop's rooms, were most fashionably and numerously attended.

The jubilee was celebrated at Alnwick with uncommon festivity and joy. An appropriate sermon was preached in the parish church by the Rev. Mr. Proctor, to a crowded audience; each freeman and freeman's widow received one guinea to drink his majesty's health. The chamberlains and council dined at the Black Bull. The Percy tenantry were placed upon the extensive ramparts of the Castle, and the artillery at the battery, and the cavalry, were drawn up on the plain before the battery, when three *feux de joie* were fired throughout the whole, which had a most beautiful effect. After which, the officers dined at the castle with Earl Percy, their colonel; and the different companies dined at the various inns.

At Berwick, the day was ushered in with the ringing of bells. In the forenoon, the mayor and magistrates attended divine service at church, when an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. Joseph Barnes, the vicar. After the service in the church was concluded, the Forfarshire militia marched from the barracks to the walls, and being set at proper distances round the fortifications of the town, fired three *feux de joie*, the cannon firing betwixt each round of the infantry, twice seventeen and once sixteen times, making fifty rounds in honour of the day. The militia having marched into the Parade, fired three excellent vollies. Colonel Allan, M.P., gave a dinner to above six hundred boys, mostly belonging to the schools in the town, the masters of which attended. The mayor, magistrates, and a great number of gentlemen, dined

at the Red Lion inn. In the evening, there was a ball at the Assembly-room; there was also a ball and supper at the Town-hall (which, with the spire, was illuminated), given by Colonel Allan, both of which were numerous attended. The evening's amusements out of doors concluded with fire-works.

Every town, and many of the villages within the counties of Durham and Northumberland, evinced their joy and gratitude at their beloved monarch's lengthened years.

1809 (*Nov. 22*).—Died, in the Freeman's Hospital, in the Manor-chare, Newcastle, Mary Huntley, aged 102 years.

This year, died at Wingate Grange, in the county of Durham, Mr. T. Watson, aged 106 years.

An act was this year passed for constituting Gateshead Fell a separate rectory, and one acre of ground was ordered to be allotted to the rector of Gateshead, for the site of a church and churchyard, leaving, however, the whole of the original parish still united as to the joint maintenance of the poor. The foundation stone of a new church on Gateshead Fell was laid May 13th, 1824, *which see*.

An act was also obtained this year for paving, watching, lighting, and cleansing the town of Sunderland; for removing the market, for building a town-hall or market-house, and otherwise improving the said town, and for establishing a watch on the river Wear.

The Moot-hall, in the Castle Garth, Newcastle, where the assizes, &c., for the county of Northumberland were held, was pulled down.

A buoy, stationed about two miles to the north-east of Bamborough-castle, in Northumberland, was, in the winter of this year, carried away in a violent storm, and found, together with a large piece of metal, which served as an anchor, on the sand near Nova-Scotia.

On opening a gap in a wall near Bamborough, for the passage of carts, a toad, which had been incarcerated in the centre of the wall, was found alive and set at liberty. A mason, named George Wilson, when building this wall sixteen years before, had wantonly immured the animal in a close cavity formed of lime and stone, just sufficient to contain it, and which he plastered so closely as seemingly to prevent the admission of air. When discovered, it seemed at first, as must naturally be supposed, in a very torpid state; but it soon recovered animation and activity; and as if sensible of the blessings of freedom, made its way to a collection of stones, and disappeared.

1809.—This year and the following, Collingwood-street, in Newcastle (called after the gallant admiral), was formed, and the houses which stood near the north porch of St. Nicholas' church, were pulled down, by which a large area, called St. Nicholas' Square, is formed in front of that elegant structure. An equestrian statue, or a column, in memory of a monarch, or an illustrious townsman, erected in the centre of this square, would be highly ornamental.

1810 (*Jan. 10*).—Died, at Alnham, in Northumberland, John Rutherford, aged 100 years. He had formerly been a shepherd.

1810 (*Jan. 16*).—Died, within the rules of the King's Bench prison, London, and was buried on the 23d in the vault of St. George's church, in the Borough, Andrew Robinson Stoney Bowes, esq. This Irish *fortune hunter*, then Mr. Stoney, came to Newcastle, an ensign in the 4th regiment of foot, where he had the address to marry Miss Newton,* only child of William Newton, of Burnopfield, in the county of Durham, esq., with a very large fortune. In 1770, Ensign Stoney, succeeded Mr. Forrest, (promoted to a captaincy) as lieutenant in the 4th regiment of foot.† After the regiment was disbanded, Mr. Stoney retired on half-pay to the seat of his wife's ancestors. His wife, after suffering much cruel treatment, died leaving no issue. In 1777, he married the countess of Strathmore, a most accomplished young widow, whose lord had died at Lisbon, leaving her in the possession of immense property. In consequence of this marriage, he assumed the name of Bowes. On the death of Sir Walter Blackett, this year, he stood a contest for Newcastle, against Sir John Trevelyan, bart., but was unsuccessful. In 1780, he served the office of high sheriff of Northumberland, and in the month of September the same year, was chosen a representative in parliament for Newcastle. In 1785, the countess obtained a divorce against her husband for cruelty, and in 1787, articles of peace were again exhibited against him, in consequence of which, he was finally sentenced to pay a fine of £300. to his majesty, to be confined in the king's bench prison for three years, and at the expiration thereof, to find security for fourteen years, himself in £10,000. and two sureties in £5,000. each. The countess wrote a very bitter, but just epitaph, which she sent to Bowes during his confinement. In 1790, a sentence of excommunication, decreed by the high court of delegates, against A. R. S. Bowes, esq., for contumacy and not having paid the expenses of the said court, amounting to £553. 8s. 6d.; in a cause instituted by Mary Eleanor Bowes, his wife, was read in the parish church of St. Nicholas, in Newcastle. Bowes was a compound of baseness and hypocrisy, and his acts (even when in prison) were of the blackest dye. To sum up his character in the words of his biographer, "he was a villain to the back-bone!" A portrait of Bowes is prefixed to the memoirs of his life, written by Jesse Foote, his surgeon and friend. The countess of Strathmore died April 28th, 1800. See *vol. i. pages 229 and 270.*

January 20.—Died, at the Forest Burn, Rothbury, Matthew Hall, aged 107 years,

January 30.—Died in the county poor-house, in Gallow-gate. Newcastle, Mary Walker, widow, aged 102 years.

February.—Previous to digging the foundation for the county

* November 5th, 1768, was married at St. Andrew's church, in Newcastle, by the Rev. Mr. Nathaniel Ellison, Andrew Robinson Stoney, esq., an ensign in the 4th regiment (Brudenell's), to Miss Newton, of Westgate-street, an heiress with a fortune of £20,000.—*Newcastle Courant and Newcastle Journal of this date.*

† *Newcastle Chronicle*, January 27th, 1770.

courts, in Newcastle, it was necessary to remove an enormous mound, surrounded by the Moot-hall on the north (then removed), and by what was called the half-moon battery, on the south. This vast accumulation of ashes, &c. was about thirty-two feet high, above one hundred feet in length, and of great breadth. The beginning of this month, on digging the foundation after its removal, several antiquities were discovered, which proved this to have been the site of a Roman station. When at the depth of five feet from the surface, a well of Roman masonry was discovered near the edge of the bank. It is near the centre of the present building. To raise it to the desired level, a very strong wall in the form of a trapezium, and inclosing about ten square yards, had been constructed on frame work, of beams of oak, fixed perpendicularly and horizontally in the river bank, and filled up within and without with clean blue clay. The beams of oak were remarkably fresh, and near the bottom of two of them, that were placed perpendicularly, stags' horns of great size and thickness were found. Between the factitious and original bank was a thick layer of ferns, grasses, brambles, and twigs of birch and oak, firmly matted together. Near the north-east corner of the court-house were found two Roman altars, one bearing an illegible inscription, the other plain. There were also large quantities of Roman pottery, two copper coins of Antoninus Pius, and a part of the shaft of a Corinthian pillar, richly fluted, and of excellent workmanship. Near the altars there were found a small axe, a concave stone, bearing marks of fire, split and with thin flakes of lead in the fissures, also fragments of millstones and foundations of walls, firm and impenetrable as the hardest rock. At the bottom of the well were found two buckets with their iron chains.

1810(*Feb.* 6).—Died, at Barnardcastle, Margaret Gowland, aged 105 years.

February 22.—About two o'clock on the morning, a most tremendous fire broke out in the steam corn and paper mill, on the premises of Mr. Harrison, baker, Gateshead. A few minutes after the first discovery of the calamity, the whole of the mill was completely in flames, and the fire had communicated to the adjoining dwelling house of Mr. Harrison, where it spread itself with such rapidity, that the family had scarce time to save their lives; happily, however, they all escaped unhurt, but of the furniture and other effects of the house, not any part was preserved, nor even a single article of wearing apparel. On the first alarm, the fire-bell was rung, and the fire-engines hastened to the spot, but before they could be of any use, the dwelling-house of Mr. Harrison was completely levelled with the ground; and the adjoining one occupied by Mr. Anderson, grocer, in such a state of conflagration, that it was utterly impossible to prevent it sharing the same fate. The fire was, however, prevented from spreading farther on that side, and the exertions of the firemen were happily attended with such success, that the dwelling-house adjoining to Mr. Harrison on the other side, and tenanted by Mr. John Mar-

shall, printer, was preserved from destruction, and the fire which had communicated to it extinguished. The whole was got under about nine o'clock. Mr. Anderson lost the whole of his furniture, clothes, &c. and nearly the contents of his shop. Mr. Marshall also sustained a considerable loss by the hasty removal of his stock. the premises being contiguous to the river, made the illumination awfully grand from Newcastle. There was a very liberal subscription for the sufferers.

1810 (*Feb. 27*).—A grand masonic procession took place at Berwick, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of a new pier for that harbour; the day was ushered in by the ringing of bells, &c. The different lodges of freemasons from the neighbouring towns joining that of Berwick, assembled on the morning, at the town-hall, along with the magistrates, commissioners, and a number of respectable inhabitants, from thence they walked to the church in due order, where an excellent sermon was preached on the occasion by the Rev. J. Barnes, vicar of Berwick. After service, they proceeded (attended by the band, and a guard of the Forfarshire militia, then lying there), to lay the foundation stone. After the Rev. William Johnstone, of Spital, chaplain to the lodge of St. George, had delivered a short prayer, the stone in which was deposited a bottle, containing all the different coins of George III. with several medals, and two plates, with suitable inscriptions on them, was laid down amidst the acclamations of an immense concourse of people. When the ceremony, which was honoured by a royal salute from the cannon on the ramparts, followed by the ships of the harbour, who displayed their flags on the occasion, was over, the procession returned to the town-hall, where the lodge of St. George dined; the other lodges dined at their respective rooms, and the day concluded with the greatest harmony.

March 7.—Died off Minorca, on board the *Ville de Paris*, the day after his departure for England, vice-admiral Lord Collingwood, born at Newcastle in the year 1750. He was the friend and confidant of Lord Nelson, and after the fall of that gallant admiral at the battle off Cape Trafalgar, Admiral Collingwood completed the victory in the most gallant style, for which conduct November 24th, 1805, the freedom of the city of London and a sword of 200 guineas value were voted to him. November 21st the same year, the common council of Newcastle, voted him a piece of plate value 150 guineas, and the master and brethren of the Trinity-house, presented him with the freedom of that corporation in a gold-box. The Newcastle Armed Associated Volunteer Infantry voted him a piece of plate, value 125 guineas, for his meritorious conduct on the same occasion. It was made in London, and was an elegant silver enchased tureen, containing his lordship's arms, with other emblematical devices, and an appropriate inscription. May 11th, his lordship's remains were interred in St. Paul's cathedral. August 6th, 1812, a fine whole length portrait of his lordship which had been voted by the Newcastle Volunteers, to be placed in the Guildhall of that town, was, after an elegant speech, presented by

lieutenant colonel Clennell, at the head of the regiment, to the mayor and other members of the corporation. The regiment then fired three vollies, and the guns on the castle fired a salute. The portrait is painted by Lonsdale in his best manner. In 1821, a cenotaph by Rossi, to the memory of Lord Collingwood, was placed in the nave of St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle. It is a marble bust of his lordship, placed upon a pedestal, whereon is recorded his various achievements. An engraved portrait is prefixed to his memoirs. Lady Collingwood died September 16th, 1819.

1810 (*March 15*).—A self-acting plane of a wonderful construction, was put in motion, for the purpose of conveying coals from Bewicke-main colliery, to the Tyne. It was constructed and executed under the direction of Samuel Cooke, esq., of Ayton-house, one of the owners of the colliery. The length of the rope on this plane was 1,600 yards, and it was made to convey fifty chaldron waggons of coals, at the astonishing speed of ten miles in one hour.

March 16.—Died, at Lamesley, in the county of Durham, Mrs. Mary Potter, aged 100 years.

This month, as the workmen were digging to the common sewer, for a house in Collingwood-street, Newcastle, then building for the late Mr. John Arnett, tallow-chandler, they discovered a fine fragment of the Roman wall, built by the Emperor Severus, upwards of 1,600 years before. In the wall was found a stone hollowed out like a mortar, and containing some bones and ashes or red earth. This hollow stone was inverted upon a thin stone and formed part of the face of the wall.

April 7.—About one o'clock on the morning, several Cullercoats fishermen, launched their boats and went to sea, it being smoother than it had been for many days. They got off and examined their great lines, where they had left them some time previously. Whilst they were thus employed, a heavy storm arose. The alarming situation of the boats was seen from Hartley. The Blyth life boat was sent for, and promptly obtained, accompanied by numbers of people. The wind, about three o'clock in the afternoon, blew strong from E. S. E., and the sea very high. The boat being manned, then pulled through the breakers, soon reached the fishing cobbles, and after taking out the men and much of their gear, the majority unfortunately agreed to land near Bates's Isle, instead of making for Blyth or Shields harbours, the former of which they could have reached in an hour. In returning and nearing the margin of the tempestuous main, one high and ridgy wave broke into the boat, killed or dreadfully maimed the steersman and two or three others, stove the boat almost to pieces, yet she still floated, her gunwales even with the broken water. Another heavy wave following when she was near the land and under no command, she struck the ground splitting nearly in two, the cork floated out, and the fragments were entirely dispersed. Only two men out of twenty-seven, escaped to land; one a Swede and the other a seaman named Thomas Lilly, belonging to Hartley. During the whole of this heart-rending scene, the shore was lined with near two

thousand people. Among the sufferers were a father and four sons, named Armstrong; several left widows and large families. A very liberal subscription was raised in the neighbouring towns for the distressed families.

1810 (*April 15*).—Died, at Chester-le-street, aged 79, Sir Thomas Conyers, bart. He inherited of this once illustrious family, nothing but the title, which expired with him. Such is the mutability of human affairs, that this man, whose ancestors were lords of Horden, and inheritors of extensive lands, actually broke stones upon the turnpike! and was in the poor-house at Chester-le-street, until by the generous charity of the late bishop (Barrington) of Durham, and other gentlemen of the county, his latter days were made comfortable. There is a small engraved portrait of Sir Thomas Conyers.

April 23.—This being the day appointed by Simon Temple, esq., for opening his new colliery, at South Shields, the morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells, &c. &c. Eight waggons being loaded with the coals, were about one o'clock drawn by one horse from the pit to the staith, preceded by the band of the East York militia, and followed by Mr. Temple, and a long procession of his friends, and two associations of shipwrights under their banners. Seven of the waggons in succession, were let down by a new inclined plane to the deck of the ship *Maida*, belonging to Mr. Temple, which was decorated with colours. The delivery of each was succeeded by a general discharge of cannon, and three times three cheers from the surrounding multitude. The eighth wagon was given to the families of the unfortunate men belonging to South Shields, who were prisoners in France. The company then proceeded to Hylton castle, where one hundred and fifty gentlemen sat down to dinner. The high sheriff of Northumberland, the mayor of Newcastle, several of the chapter of Durham, and most of the magistrates of the district, were at the table. At eight o'clock the ball commenced. At one o'clock, near four hundred ladies and gentlemen sat down to supper; after which dancing recommenced and continued till near six, when all retired highly pleased with the entertainment and respectful attention paid to them.

Same day, died at Sunderland, Mrs. Douglas, in the 101st year of her age.

May 1.—The lighthouses at North Shields, after being rebuilt were first lighted, and the tide flag hoisted.

May 9.—The foundation stone of a wall to form a new street between Newgate-street and Gallowgate, Newcastle, was laid by Sir Cuthbert Heron, bart., under which he deposited silver and copper coins of his majesty George III. This street was afterwards called Heron-street. In 1824, this street was much improved by pulling down an old house which stood across it.

May 21.—A most tremendous storm of thunder and lightning visited Felton and the neighbourhood. The electric fluid entered the house of Mr. William Cowens, farmer, at East Thirston, it shivered to pieces a press-bed standing in the kitchen, and ran along and melted the bell-wires attached to three rooms; in the parlour

a closet door was split. At this moment Mr. Cowens came in from the field, and his dog, which was close behind him, was killed on the spot. There was a loaded gun standing in the passage, which exploded soon after. When the alarm had a little subsided, it was discovered that the rooms on the second floor were on fire, and it was supposed that the lightning, which had been attracted by the curtain rods, had set fire to the window curtains and bed-hangings. The flames were, however, soon extinguished. A great number of squares of glass in the windows were broken, and the roof of the house was penetrated in several places, but no person sustained any injury.

1810 (*May 24*).—The foundation of a new bridge was laid at Thropton, near Rothbury. On this occasion, the Coquetdale rangers, and Percy tenantry paraded. The Rev. Dr. Watson laid the first stone, and delivered an appropriate prayer; as each stone was laid, the volunteers fired a volley. The ceremony being finished, the procession returned to Thropton, where a large party sat down to dinner, and spent the day in the greatest harmony.



May 29.—The Society of Arts presented a gold medal to the late Mr. Isaac Jopling, senior, of Gateshead, for penetrating into the remotest corners of the North Highlands, discovering variety of marbles, working the quarries, and bringing (at great labour and expense) the produce of these almost inaccessible regions into use. The above wood cut by the late Mr. Thomas Bewick, represents correctly the obverse and reverse of this beautiful medal, which weighs 1oz. 10dwts. and 10grs. For an interesting account of the difficulties which Mr. Jopling had to encounter, whilst working the quarries in Sutherlandshire, see the "*Transactions of the Society of Arts, &c.*" for 1810, vol. xxviii. p. 59. The marble works in Gateshead, are still carried on by Mrs. Isaac Jopling, junior, to whose kindness I am indebted for the loan of the above wood cut.

June 1.—Died, at South Shields, Mr. Andrew Bowmaker, aged 103 years.

June 4.—The foundation stone of the Jubilee school, near the

keelmens' hospital, on the New-road Newcastle, was laid by George Anderson, esq., in commemoration of the 50th year of the reign of his majesty George III., and being also the anniversary of his birth, the troops in the garrison, joined by several volunteer corps, assembled on the Town-moor, and fired in honour of the day. March 4th, 1811, this school was first opened.

1810 (*June 21*).—The foundation stone of a new charity school, near the church, North Shields, was laid with great solemnity by John Scott, esq., one of the magistrates for the county, assisted by William Linskill, Robert Laing, esqrs., and others. The Rev. William Haswell, then stood upon the stone, and pronounced a benediction suitable to the occasion, after which he delivered an elegant oration. A brass plate, with an inscription, and several coins of the reign of George III. were deposited in the stone.

Same day, died, at Jarrow, Mary Wolfe, aged 105 years.

July 15.—Died, at Sunderland, Elizabeth Hall, aged 105 years. Her twin-brother died about five years before, aged 100 years, and her mother lived to the age of 108 years.

July 23.—The foundation stone of the new county courts for the county of Northumberland, in the Castle Garth, Newcastle, was laid by the right honourable Earl Percy, as representative of his grace the duke of Northumberland. The magistrates and a considerable number of gentlemen of Newcastle and the county assembled at the Guildhall, at eleven o'clock, and from thence walked to the site of the courts. On the arrival of Earl Percy and the procession at the site, the Percy tenantry and the Newcastle volunteers, who were drawn up in a square, presented arms, and a royal salute of 21 guns, was fired from the castle. Thomas Clennell, esq., the chairman of the bench of magistrates of the county then made a neat speech, after which he presented the silver trowel to the noble earl, in the name of the justices, to lay the foundation of the building. A plate, with a suitable inscription, and various gold, silver, and copper coins of the reign of King George III. having been deposited in a cavity cut in the stone, his lordship proceeded to the masonic part of the ceremony, after which, his lordship addressed the audience, which was received with a burst of acclamation. The clerk of the peace, then handed to the chairman a letter from his grace the duke of Northumberland, inclosing a donation of £3,000. towards the erection of the building, in aid of the county rates, which, his grace observed, would fall heavy on the less opulent freeholders. The chairman mounting the stone, and displaying the three bank notes of £1,000. each, explained the purport of the letter, and observed, this was another proof of the generosity of the noble house of Percy. The gift was received with three times three cheers, and on the proposition of the chairman, the letter and the thanks of the magistrates were immediately entered in the archives of the county. Another royal salute was fired from the castle, the Newcastle volunteers firing a volley between every seventh gun. The procession then returned to the Guildhall. In the afternoon, about ninety gentlemen sat down to

a sumptuous dinner.* at the Queen's Head inn, in Pilgrim-street, Earl Percy in the chair. His lordship gave £50. to the workmen employed in building the courts. This and the following year, the assizes for the county of Northumberland were held in St. Nicholas' church.

1810 (*Aug. 2*).—A young whale, called a finner, was towed into Sunderland by a Scots sloop, which picked it up off Holy Island. It measured thirty feet in length.

August 7.—Whilst an act of parliament was passing for rebuilding St. Edmund's chapel, in Gateshead, which had long been in ruins, a new chapel was begun and built by subscription. It was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham, on the above day, and an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. John Collinson, A. M., rector of Gateshead, from 1 Tim. chap. iii. ver. 15. August 7th the following year, the burial ground of this chapel was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham, and an appropriate sermon preached on the occasion by the Rev. John Collinson, A. M., rector of Gateshead, from Genesis, chap. xxiii, ver. 2, 3, 4. The following year the ruins of St. Edmund's chapel were taken down, and houses for the three elder brethren were at the same time rebuilt a little to the north of the new chapel.

August 16.—An extraordinary high tide, accompanied with a boisterous north wind, and a very tempestuous sea, swept away about thirty-six yards in length of the outer wall of Clifford's Fort, at the east end of North Shields. Some masses of stones were carried by the force of the water, near thirty yards from the site of the wall. It also tore up and carried away some hundreds of tons of earth and gravel to the eastward of the Fort, and destroyed the blocks which had been erected for laying down the frame of a new ship on his grace the duke of Northumberland's premises.

September 3.—The remains of a human skeleton were dug up on the bank side, near the southern end of Stephenson-street, North Shields. An old house had been pulled down near the spot, in order to enlarge and beautify the street, and within a few yards of its site, the bones were discovered; a few years before, another skeleton was dug up near the same place. It was believed this was the old house, wherein, in the year 1705, the duke of Argyle, then a resident at Chirton, near North Shields, received so many bruises in a night brawl or revel, as occasioned his death shortly thereafter. It was occupied by Paphian nymphs, and often resorted to by the noble duke, of pleasurable and profligate memory. The following is extracted from the register of baptisms at St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle :—"1701, November 18th. Archald, son of Mr. Andrew Kennedy, vintner; Barbara Ux.—Archbald duke of Argile, Bartram Stote, esq., and Mrs. Ann Potts. ff markt." The three last-mentioned persons were sponsors of the child, who had been named after this unfortunate noble-

* Anthony Hood, esq., alderman of Newcastle, felt rather indisposed during the procession, which prevented his attendance at dinner, and he died in the night, to the great grief of all his acquaintance.

man; Mr. Stote was no doubt of the family of Stote, once owners of Stote's hall, at Jesmond. "ff Markt" means the Flesh Market, where I would infer Mr. Kennedy, the father of the child, resided. See *June 2d*, 1814.

1810 (*Sept. 18*).—The opening of the cut, or canal, made for altering the course of the river Tees, between Stockton and Portrack, was commenced at Stockton by public rejoicings. The morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells. At half-past seven, three sloops decorated with flags, &c. proceeded from Portrack through the canal, attended by the volunteer band of music, the custom-house boat, the Redcar life-boat, and a numerous assemblage of pleasure-boats, &c.; several guns were fired from the vessels as each entered into and went out of the canal, which were returned by guns placed on the quays at Stockton. When the sloops arrived at Stockton, the company's flag (most elegantly designed) was taken down from the mast head of the sloop which came up first, and conveyed through the street, preceded by the band of music, and placed on the top of the cupola on the Town-hall. At twelve o'clock, the workmen were regaled with meat and drink, and at two o'clock, seventy gentlemen sat down in the Town-hall to dinner, the volunteer band performing.

October 25.—This being the day which completed the half century of the reign of his late majesty George III., was celebrated at Alnwick with great splendour. The day was ushered in by the *reveille* and a morning gun, when the colours were hoisted on the castle, and before noon, Lord Percy's artillery, wall-piece men, cavalry, and nine companies of the rifle corps, upwards of 750 men, had marched into the castle, and taken post upon the saluting battery, the towers and battlements of the castle; the other half of his lordship's corps having assembled on Tyne-side. At one o'clock, the *feu de joie* was fired by each branch of the corps respectively, mingled with the loudest cheers and music. After firing, the volunteers were refreshed with cold meat and ale; they then returned to their quarters, where good hot dinners were prepared for them, at the duke's expense. His grace ordered an ox to be roasted in the Market-place, and three carts attended with ale and bread to be distributed to the populace. But the better to commemorate the day, the duke of Northumberland caused the first stone of a school to be laid, capable of containing 200 boys, to be educated under Mr. Lancaster's plan, which was built and supported at his grace's sole expense. The school was opened August 12th, 1811, *which see*.

October 25.—The foundation stone of the Granby Lodge of free and accepted masons was laid in Old Elvet, Durham, by the right worshipful provincial grand-master, Sir Ralph Milbanke, bart., accompanied by a great number of officers and brethren. In a cavity of the stone were deposited various coins of the reign of George III., with a jubilee medal, on the completion of the 50th year of his reign. After the ceremony, the officers and brethren dined, and the day was spent in great harmony.

1810 (*Nov. 6*).—The foundation stone of St. Cuthbert's Lodge, in Tweedmouth (under the ancient constitution, the duke of Athol, grand-master), was laid by brother Selby Morton, acting master, amidst the acclamations of most of the brethren in the neighbourhood. In the stone was inclosed a bottle, containing several coins of the reign of George III., and some old ones of King William and Queen Mary.

November 13.—Died, in the house of correction at Durham, where he had been confined upwards of seven years, under sentence of transportation for life, James Allan, a character well known in most parts of the united kingdom, particularly in Northumberland, where he was known by the name of *Jemmy, the duke's piper*, and was in early life a great proficient on the pipes. He was capitally convicted of horse-stealing, at the assizes held at Durham in 1803, and received sentence of death, but was afterwards pardoned on condition of transportation for life; but on account of his age and infirmities, his sentence could not be carried into execution. He had nearly completed his 77th year, and, for the greatest part of his confinement, was afflicted with a complication of disorders. Had the chequered life of this notorious character been prolonged a little, he would have regained his liberty, as the first signature of the Prince Regent, officially addressed to the city of Durham, was a free pardon for Allan; but death had removed him beyond the reach of royal clemency. There is a portrait of Allan prefixed to his Memoirs. Died, on the 27th of March, 1830, at Rothbury, Tibby Allan, aged 109 years, widow of the noted Jemmy Allan, the celebrated Northumberland piper.

November 24.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, where she had resided ever since she was born, Thomasin Robinson, aged 111 years. When upwards of 100, she had her thigh broken, and recovered perfectly.

This year, as Sir Carnaby Haggerston's workmen were digging in Floddon Field, they came to a pit filled with human bones, and which seemed of great extent; but alarmed at the sight, they immediately filled up the excavation and proceeded no further. A fine seal, supposed to be Roman, was found here, which was in the possession of the late Countess Cowper.

The Baptist meeting-house, at the west end of Walker-gate lane, Berwick, was this year built.

This year, the north wall of Ponteland church fell; but the whole structure has since that time been repaired.

Albion-street and Albion-place, Newcastle, were this year formed.

This year, an act was obtained for making a turnpike road from Durham (through Lanchester) to Shotley-bridge. The road passes directly through the vale, instead of the old circuitous route along the heights.

The corporation of Newcastle this year purchased the Old Castle in that town, which they put into a state of repair, and battlements, guns for rejoicing days, &c., were placed upon the top. It was the property of the government. *See vol. i. page 14.*

1811 (*Jan. 3*).—Died, at Blyth, Mrs. Blakey, aged 104 years.

February 1.—In the night of this day, the Low-light on the Fern Island was first lighted.

February 23.—Died, at the High Felling, in the county of Durham, Mr. Isaac Jackson, aged 104 years.

February 28.—Died, in Gateshead, Mr. Richard Bentley, aged 101 years.

March 6.—Died, at Kenton, near Newcastle, Mrs. Margaret Milburn, aged 104 years.

March 12.—About ten o'clock in the evening, a carriage was unfortunately overturned near Jesmond House. It had set off from the residence of James Losh, esq., of that place, but had not proceeded far, when the driver mistaking the proper turn to go along the bridge, the carriage and horses were precipitated over a low fence into the entrance of Jesmond Dean, the height of at least 18 or 20 feet. There were two gentlemen in the carriage, one of whom leaped out as the vehicle was passing over the fence, the other was carried to the bottom, and miraculously escaped any injury. The driver was severely bruised, and one of the horses died a few minutes after the accident.

This month, a cannon ball, weighing 96lb., and thirty inches in circumference, was dug out of the ruins of the old castle in Berwick: it had penetrated the castle wall about three yards, at a place where it had been flanked with a tower, which must have been first penetrated, and of which there were sufficient remains to ascertain the fact. This was supposed to be the identical ball which destroyed one of the principal towers of the castle, and caused its immediate surrender to the royal army. *See the year 1405, vol. i. page 56.*

April 10.—Died, at Anick, in Northumberland, James Crozier, aged 101 years.

May 28.—The Society of Arts presented the silver pallet medal to the late Mr. Isaac Jopling, junior, for a plaster cast, a copy of the Gladiator.

This month, died at Seaton, near Hartlepool, Eleanor Smith, widow, aged 107 years. She retained her faculties to the last.

June 4.—As three hundred men belonging to the 82d regiment, then stationed at Tynemouth, were crossing in the military passage-boat from North to South Shields, to fire on Whitburn sands, the boat was struck and upset by a ship entering the river Tyne, which caused considerable alarm, and might have had dreadful consequences. None of the men were lost, but many very seriously bruised and wet. One died from the effects next day. Several muskets, side arms, and hats, were lost.

June 10.—As some workmen were digging at the head of the Long-bank, Sunderland, they found a human skeleton, about two feet below the surface.

June 12.—The workmen employed in lowering the level of the flat pavement, at the south door of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, discovered, within six inches of the surface, a very perfect

stone coffin. It contained some bones, and a quantity of earth: there being no cover to it, the bones were immediately buried. The coffin seemed to have been made to contain a person of about five feet six inches high. There was a proper excavation for the head of the corpse, and a circular perforation in the bottom of the coffin, for the purpose of keeping it dry.

1811 (*June 29*).—Died, at the North Shore, near Newcastle, Mrs. Sarah Gibson, aged 102 years.

July 23.—About three o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in a stable belonging to Mr. Jonathan Bell, of Walwick, near Chollerford, which totally consumed the same, together with five horses and their trappings, belonging to Mr. Thomas Wright, the Carlisle carrier.

This month, in taking down that part of the town's wall, in Newcastle, which extended from Pilgrim-street to the Weavers' tower in New Bridge-street, three cannon balls, of 22 lb. weight each, were found lodged deep in the wall. They had been shot during the siege of that town by the Scots, in 1644. *See vol. i. page 97.*

August 5.—The lord bishop of Durham consecrated a new burial-ground at Trimdon, in the county of Durham.

August 12.—This being the birth-day of the Prince Regent (afterwards George IV.), his grace the duke of Northumberland endowed and opened, at Alnwick, a seminary for 200 boys, the children of the neighbouring poor, to be clothed, fed, and educated at his grace's sole expense and bounty, enacting, as an express clause in this permanent institution, that the natal day of the Regent should be observed for ever as a holiday, in order that the boys, as they grow up, may learn to reverence and bless that Prince to whose honour this munificent establishment has been dedicated.

August 28.—Died, at Barlow, near Ryton, Durham, John Anderson, shoemaker, aged 108 years. He died in the act of soling a pair of shoes. He enjoyed good health, and never wore spectacles.

September 14.—Died, at Lesbury, in Northumberland, aged 78 years, the Rev. Percival Stockdale, the ingenious vicar of Lesbury and Longhoughton. Being the only child of the Rev. Thomas Stockdale, vicar of Branxton, and perpetual curate of Cornhill, he was nurtured with excessive care, and after being at the grammar schools of Alnwick and Berwick, he was entered of the university of St. Andrews. On the death of his father he became a second lieutenant in the 23d, or Royal Welsh Fusileers, in which regiment he served in the expedition against St. Philip, in Minorca. On his return, his regiment being ordered to India, he resigned his commission in November 1757. Two years afterwards he was ordained deacon by Dr. Trevor, bishop of Durham; he then went to London, where he enjoyed the society of Garrick, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Brown, Goldsmith, and others of that bright constellation of genius. He afterwards became curate to Mr. Thorp, vicar of Berwick, but in a short time returned to London, and being without any church

employment, he, in 1767, embarked for Italy, where he read and wrote very assiduously. After his return to London in 1769, he translated "*Tasso's Aminta*." The booksellers having conceived a very high opinion of his talents, he was appointed successor to Dr. Guthrie in the management of the "*Critical Review*." He also wrote a very elegant life of Waller the poet, for Davies, and translated for the same publisher the "*Antiquities of Greece*," from the Latin. In 1771, he compiled the "*Universal Magazine*," and two years afterwards appeared his most distinguished work, "*The Poet*." About this time Mr. S. became chaplain of the Resolution, guardship, of 74 guns, stationed at Spithead. During the three years he was attached to this ship, his mind was not inactive, having, besides some minor poems, compiled six sermons to seamen, and translated into English, Sabbattiers' "*Institutions, Customs, and Manners of the ancient Nations*." He afterwards wrote an "*Essay on the Writings and Genius of Pope*," against the essay by Wharton on the same subject. This performance met with the approbation of Gibbon and Burke. He next wrote several political letters, signed Agricola, in the Public Advertiser, was a short time tutor to Lord Craven's son, and next became curate of Hineworth, in Hertfordshire, where he wrote fifteen sermons. In 1782, he took priest's orders, and wrote his "*Treatise on Education*." The year following, Lord Chancellor Thurlow presented him with the living of Lesbury, to which the duke of Northumberland added that of Longhoughton, in the same county. Here Mr. S. wrote his tragedy of "*Ximenes*," but the climate not agreeing with his health, he accepted an invitation from his friend Mr. Matra, British consul at Tangier, to pass some time with him under its more genial sky. On his return in 1790, he wrote an elaborate "*History of Gibraltar*," which, in a fit of despondency, he committed to the flames, but he soon resumed his studies and composed two poems, "*The Banks of the Wear*," and "*The Invincible Island*," and in 1807 he completed and published his "*Lectures on the Poets*." His last publication was "*Memoirs of Himself*," which are dedicated to the ingenious Miss Porter. There is a portrait of Mr. Stockdale prefixed to his poems.

1811 (Oct. 3).—Thomas Elliot stood in the pillory at Sunderland according to his sentence, having been convicted of an assault on a young girl. The novelty of the scene brought together an immense concourse of people, (supposed not less than 20,000), who behaved in the most orderly manner, hardly a single insult being offered to the convicted delinquent.

October 12.—The estate of Andrew Robinson Stoney Bowes, esq., at Benwell, near Newcastle, was brought to the hammer at the Queen's Head inn in that town. It was sold in lots, which, together with the wood upon the estate, amounted to about £65,000. When purchased by Bowes for about £24,000, it was considered a very *dear* bargain. In 1771, when this estate was advertised for sale, the mansion-house, which has since become a heap of ruins, was in the most perfect condition. There had been a chapel near

its south end, which was pulled down on account of intercepting the view from the house; when this took place, I have not been able to ascertain, but a vault and a few grave stones, one of which dated so late as the year 1759, still continue to mark the site of the burial ground, where,

“ Each in his narrow cell for ever laid,
“ The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.”

1811 (*Oct.*).—A very curious machine for cleansing and deepening Sunderland harbour was set to work. A steam-engine of great power was erected upon a floating barge, which continually drove round a number of iron buckets fastened to a chain, and which filled themselves with sand and gravel at the bottom of the harbour, and successively emptied themselves at the top of the shaft into a spout ready to receive them. This machine could lift 55 tons of ballast in 35 minutes.

This month, after much stormy weather, the high sea washed away nearly the whole of the two slips for ship-building at the Low Lights, near Clifford's-fort, North Shields, together with much of the adjoining land near the Fort-gate. October 30th and 31st it also washed away some thousands of tons of earth and rubbish; laid bare and then tore up the foundations of an old fort, which, from the nature of the cement between the stones, appeared to have existed previous to Clifford's-fort, built in 1672.

November 17.—The new built Scots church, in Howard-street, North Shields, was opened for divine service. A very excellent and appropriate discourse was delivered on the occasion by the Rev. Mr. Knox, to a crowded audience.

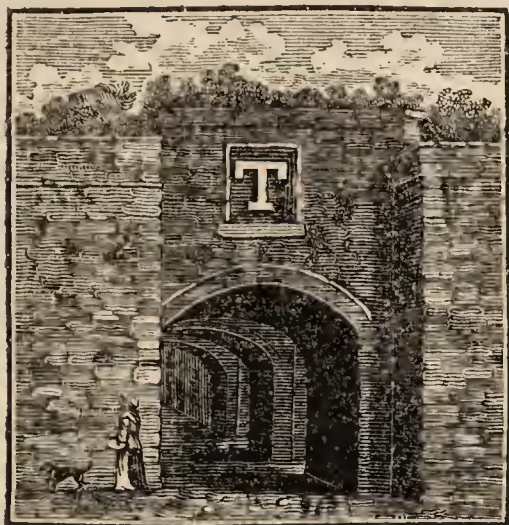


This month, in consequence of the scarcity of silver coin, Mr. John Robertson, Silversmith of Newcastle, issued silver tokens of one shilling and sixpence each. This wood cut represents the shilling token. Mr. R. afterwards issued tokens of half-a-crown. Mr. Kelty, silversmith of Newcastle, issued silver tokens. Silver and copper tokens were also issued from Bewicke Main colliery office in Newcastle.

Messrs. Christopher and Jennett, booksellers, Stockton, issued silver and copper tokens. Various other tradesmen in the counties of Durham and Northumberland issued tokens.

December 28.—An alarming fire broke out in a house in New Pandon-street, Newcastle, belonging to, and occupied by Mr.

Cooke, ship-biscuit baker, which communicated to the house adjoining, and terminated in the destruction of both.



his year, the Westgate, in Newcastle, was pulled down. It was one of those strong entrances through the town-wall, and had been in former times secured with massive gates of oak beams and iron doors. This gate consisted of four wards, and was said to have been built by the munificent Roger Thornton. In the year 1782, a foot-way was opened on the north side of this gate. Upon the site of this gate are built a toll-house ; the House Carpenters'

meeting-house, and the Peace and Unity Hospital. It was long used as a magazine for military stores. This gate had formerly been a prison. *See the year 1648, vol. i. page 102.*

1811.—This year, Cornsay Alms-houses, in the parish of Lan-
chester, Durham, for six poor men and six poor women, were built and endowed by the late William Russell, esq., of Brancepeth castle.

Forth-street, Orchard-street, and Castle-street, in Newcastle, were this year formed. The quay was also considerably widened opposite the Exchange, Newcastle.

This and the preceding year, the chapel of St. Hilda at South Shields, which is of very high antiquity, probably nearly coeval with Jarrow church, was almost nearly rebuilt, except the steeple, the south and west wall, and part of the east wall ; the pillars forming the north and south aisles were removed, and a single roof thrown over the whole structure ; the ground floor was new paved, and a handsome uniform gallery extended round the north, south, and west. The ceiling of the whole is handsomely stuccoed.

1812 (*Jan. 27*).—Died, at Pit Hill, in the parish of Chester-le-
street, Catherine Aisbert, aged 104 years.

February.—Several Roman antiquities were this month sold by a person (to all appearance a farmer) to Mr. Thomas Watson, silversmith, of Newcastle. They consisted of an oblong silver salver, about eighteen inches in length, carved round the edge ; when discovered it was quite entire. A silver cup, about five inches in diameter, with only a small damage on one side ; another, about the same size, was so much corroded as to fall to pieces. A long flat handle, which appeared to have belonged to one of the cups, most beautifully carved with flowers and the heads of birds, with the following inscription, inlaid with letters of gold, M A T R. F A B. D V B I T.—two pieces of silver, carved and gilt, which seemed to have been the side pieces of a bridle bit. Several gold and silver rings, some set with stones, and one with an inscription. The rings were in the shape of serpents. Along with the above was discovered a number of silver coins ; and a massy gold chain about eighteen inches long. The above were found in

Northumberland, but the person who sold them, from interested motives, refused to give any information respecting the place.

1812 (*March 15*).—The new Methodist chapel in Vine-street, Sunderland, was opened, on which occasion, the Rev. John Slack officiated.

April 4.—The remains of the hon. lady Julia Percy, arrived in Newcastle from Alnwick. In the evening the body lay in state at the Turk's Head inn, and early the next morning was again carried forward on its melancholy route to the family burial place at Stanwix, in Yorkshire.

April 15.—The first stone of the new work, at Hartlepool pier was laid by Carr Ibbetson, esq., amidst great rejoicings.

April 28.—Died, at Darlington, Mrs. Alice Turner, aged 103 years.

May 2.—The public market for the sale of wheat, maslin, rye, beans, and peas, was removed from near the foot of Pilgrim-street, to the open area on the north side of St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle.

May 5.—An act for lighting and watching Newcastle, without the walls, received the royal assent, and on Saturday night, September 26th, the same year, Newcastle, without the walls, was first lighted with oil.

May 7.—This being ascension day, a very melancholy accident happened on the return of the aquatic party from Shields to Newcastle in the morning. As John Robson, a mason, one of the party, who were discharging the cannon on the top of the old castle, was in the act of reloading a gun, owing to some accident, the cartridge which he was ramming down unfortunately exploded, by which his right hand was blown off, and his body fell over the battlements of the castle, and was dashed to pieces.

May 14.—The lord bishop of St. David's consecrated a piece of ground, as additional to the church-yard of Whickham, in the county of Durham.

May 18.—Died, in New Pandon-street, Newcastle, Mrs. Margaret Clark, aged 105 years.

May 25.—About half-past eleven o'clock on the morning, one of the most tremendous explosions on record in the history of the collieries, took place at Felling, near Gateshead, in the mine belonging to Mr. Brandling, which was always considered one of the most safe in the district. Nearly the whole of the workmen were below, the second set having gone down before the first had come up, when a double blast of hydrogen gas took place. A slight trembling, as from an earthquake, was felt for about half a mile around the workings: and the noise of the explosion, though dull, was heard to three or four miles distance, and much resembled an unsteady fire of infantry. Immense quantities of dust and small coal accompanied these blasts, and rose high into the air, in the form of an inverted cone. The heaviest part of the ejected matter, such as corves, pieces of wood and small coal, fell near the pits; but the dust, borne away by a strong west wind, fell in a continued

shower from the pit to the distance of a mile and a half. In the village of Heworth, it caused a darkness like that of early twilight, and covered the roads so thickly, that the footsteps of passengers were strongly imprinted in it. The heads of both the shaft frames were blown off, their sides set on fire, and their pulleys shattered to pieces; but the pulleys of the John Pit gin, being on a crane not within the influence of the blast, were fortunately preserved. The coal dust ejected from the William Pit into the drift or horizontal parts of the tube was about three inches thick, and soon burnt to a light cinder. Pieces of burning coal driven off the solid stratum of the mine were also blown up this shaft. As soon as the explosion was heard, the wives and children of the workmen ran to the working pit; wildness and terror were pictured in every countenance. The crowds from all sides soon collected to the number of several hundreds; some crying out for a husband, others for a parent or son, and all deeply affected with an admixture of horror, anxiety, and grief. In this calamity 91 men and boys perished. The few men who were saved, happened to be working in a different part of the mine, to which the fury of the explosion did not reach. After the mine had been made air tight for about six weeks, to extinguish the fire, it was again opened, and on the 8th of July the workings were entered, and the first dead body found. From various obstructions, the last of the bodies (some of whom were under six or seven feet of stone) was not found until the 19th of September. All these persons (except four, who were buried in single graves) were interred in Heworth chapel-yard, in a trench, side by side, two coffins deep, with a partition of brick and lime between every four coffins. In commemoration of this catastrophe, a neat plain obelisk is erected, nine feet high, fixed in a solid stone base. It has four brass plates let into the stone on the four sides, on which are inscribed the name and age of each of the *ninety-one* sufferers alphabetically arranged.

1812 (*May 26*).—The Society of Arts presented a gold medal to Mr. Thomas Machell, of Wolsingham, Durham, surgeon, for the invention of an annular saw, which cuts deeper than its own centre, well adapted for the division of cylindrical bones, surrounded by muscles, blood-vessels, or nerves, and with less injury to those parts than by any other instrument in use.

The same day the Society of Arts presented a gold medal to the Rev. Dr. F. Haggitt for his improvement of 50 acres of waste land, at Pitlington, near Durham.

June 8.—The public market for the sale of bread, oat-meal, vegetables, fruit, and gingerbread, was removed from the Sandhill to a plot of ground on the south side of the new Butchers' market. These stalls were without any covering until the year 1831, when they received this very necessary addition.

June 15.—The freemen of Durham, in consequence of several encroachments, perambulated the boundaries of that city, a custom which had been neglected since the inclosure of the adjacent moors, The procession set out from the town-hall at 10 o'clock:—the

grassmen on horseback, attended by the banners of the various trades, the city waits (music), drums, beadle, &c.

1812 (*June 5*).—The races on the town-moor, Newcastle, were attended by one of the most numerous concourses of spectators ever remembered. Just as the last heat for the gold cup was finished, the temporary stand belonging to the White Hart inn, being very much crowded, gave way in the middle and involved nearly a hundred persons in the crash. About forty persons were seriously hurt, and about twelve dangerously, several of them having limbs broken. The medical gentlemen who were on the ground gave their ready assistance, and many of the sufferers were admitted into the grand stand, or were accommodated with carriages from thence. A woman named Smith was seriously injured, she being below at the time of the accident. Mr. Redhead,* *senior*, of Walker, Mr. Blackbird, of Newbottle, Mr. Fiddler, a midshipman, a pitman called "*The Duke*," and Sir H. Vane Tempest's groom, had all limbs broken: Mr. Moffitt, of Newcastle, Mr. Allison,* of Whitburn, and several others were seriously bruised. Mrs. Wylam, the proprietor, was hurt in the shoulder. A quantity of the stock of wine, spirits, and ale, was destroyed.

July 29.—The chapel at Gibside, Durham, completed by the right hon. Earl Strathmore, was consecrated with great solemnity by the lord bishop of Durham. This elegant edifice, which was commenced building by George Bowes esq., in the year 1760, as a chapel and mausoleum, is ornamented with a portico and dome highly embellished. It stands at one end of a most beautiful terrace in front of the mansion-house; the other extremity is terminated by a wood, out of which rises a fine column of stone surmounted by a figure of Liberty, built in 1756. *See vol i. page 216.*

August 6.—The high sheriff of Northumberland, Mr. Bates, of Milburn-hall, the judges of assize, and a large attendance of gentlemen, went in procession along Bailiff-gate and Castle-street, Newcastle, to the new county courts to open the commission. They had not gone this way before for perhaps some centuries, having from time immemorial gone to the Old Moot-hall by that dark, narrow, and dangerous passage called the Black Gate.

August 10.—The foundation stone of the Exchange, Town-hall, &c., at Sunderland, was laid with masonic honours, by the provincial grand lodge for the county of Durham. Sir H. V. Tempest, bart., (in the absence of Sir Ralph Milbanke, bart.) P. G. M. *pro tem*. The procession went from the Phoenix-hall, preceded by the Sunderland volunteer infantry. A plate with an inscription having been deposited in the stone, the usual ceremonies were gone through, after which the volunteers presented arms. After the P. G. Chaplain had delivered an oration, the volunteers fired three vollies in the air. The procession then returned to their lodge, and elected their officers for the following year. At three o'clock, the brethren, gentlemen of the committee, and others, to the number of nearly two hundred, sat down to an excellent dinner in the Phoenix-

* These afterwards died of their wounds.

hall, Sir H. V. Tempest, bart., in the chair, who that day distinguished himself by various acts of liberality. May the 26th, 1814, this elegant structure was opened to the subscribers, on which occasion, in the absence of the president, J. G. Lambton, esq., M.P., the chair was taken by John Davison, vice-president, who addressed the meeting: this was followed by an address from the Rev. J. Hampson, both of which were very ably delivered. This building cost £8,000., subscribed by individuals in £50. shares: half of the ground was purchased from Sir H. V. Tempest, bart., for £600., and the lease of the other moiety was obtained for 63 years, under £10. rent.

1812 (*Aug. 17*).—Died, in Gateshead, Isabella Sharp, at the great age of 114 years. It appeared by the baptismal register of that place, that she was christened August 17th, 1698.

August 31.—The Newcastle associated volunteer infantry presented their colonel, Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., with a magnificent piece of plate, as a token of the high estimation in which they held his conduct as their commanding officer. At two o'clock, the regiment assembled in Pilgrim-street, from whence they marched to the Moor, attended by a great concourse of people. Having marched past their colonel in review, the regiment formed three deep, was wheeled forward and formed in a circle, in the centre of which the vase being placed, lieut.-col. Ridley stepped forward, and addressed Sir M. W. Ridley in the most appropriate language, to which the colonel made a suitable reply. The ceremony of presentation being over, the regiment greeted him with three times three cheers, in which they were joined by the company present. The regiment was then wheeled back into line, when they fired a *feu de joie*, the guns on the castle firing a salute. They then advanced in line, and made a general salute to their colonel. Before the regiment was dismissed, the companies were presented with ten guineas each by the colonel, to regale themselves with on the occasion. The bells of St. Nicholas' church continued to ring at intervals during the day. In the latter part of the day, a magnificent dinner was served up in the Assembly-rooms, to the officers and a large party of visitors. Besides the officers of the regiment, there were present the mayor and principal members of the corporation of Newcastle; the general officers and staff of the northern district; the commanding officers of the cavalry, artillery, engineers, and militia then in Newcastle, and of the different volunteer corps, &c. in the neighbourhood, besides a great number of visitors, making in all a party of 132. The vase presented on this occasion was of silver, of an elegant Etruscan form, and was nearly two feet high. The sides were ornamented with military trophies and the arms of Ridley; its cover was surmounted by an elegant female figure, representing the town of Newcastle upon Tyne. It was of the value of £350.

September 23.—Died, at North Shields, Daniel Todd, aged 64 years; an eccentric character, well known by the name of *Lord Blake*.

October 10.—An explosion took place in Herrington-mill Pit, when twenty boys and four men were killed.

1812 (*Oct. 21*).—There was a remarkable high tide at Shields. About 60 feet of the wall of Clifford's Fort were swept away, and the Northumberland life-boat house was entirely broken to pieces. Some hundreds of masts, buoys, &c. were carried away, and the water flowed into many of the houses in North Shields. It flowed upon his grace the duke of Northumberland's new quay, and reached the doors of the warehouse.

November 18.—Some workmen employed in a quarry at Bykerhill, near Newcastle, on splitting a huge block of freestone, nearly three tons weight, found a living toad in the middle of it. The cavity that contained the animal, to which there was no passage, was the model of its figure, and was lined with a black substance, suffused with moisture.

The new building in Claypath, in the city of Durham, was this year opened for the Blue-coat and Sunday schools.

The Anti-burgher meeting house, near the middle of Church-street, Berwick, was this year built.

This year, the bridge was built over Pandon-Dean, Newcastle, and Bridge-street formed.

About this year, in forming drains at the northern extremity of the slake at Hartlepool, about five feet beneath the surface, several holes or graves, about eight feet square, were discovered, filled with human bones; trees also, the wood of which was found in excellent preservation, together with the antlers of deer, and an immense number of teeth, which, on being examined with attention, were supposed to have belonged to these animals.

1813 (*Jan. 28*).—Between four and five o'clock on the morning, a fire was discovered in the house of Miss Rudd, in Mosley-street, Newcastle, which had a most alarming appearance; but by the timely arrival of the Newcastle and Royal Exchange fire-office engines, and the great exertions of the men belonging to the same, it was happily extinguished soon after seven o'clock, though not before considerable damage was done to the house, and to Miss Rudd's stock of millinery. A party of the Royal Bucks militia attended with the greatest promptitude upon the occasion, and were of service in protecting the property and in keeping off the crowd.

February 6.—The Antiquarian Society of Newcastle was established, when the purport of its institution was declared to be "Inquiry into Antiquities in general, but especially into those of the North of England, and of the counties of Northumberland, Cumberland, and Durham, in particular." The first part of the Society's Transactions was published in Newcastle in 1816, under the title of *Archæologia Æliana*.

Same day, the wind corn-mill of Mr. Watson, near South Shields, was burnt down. The fire was occasioned by violent friction.

February 30.—About one o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out at the New Mills, belonging to the corporation of Berwick, occupied by Mr. John Forster, which burnt two barley mills, and one grey-stone mill, and a quantity of oatmeal, before it was got under; but by timely assistance, it was prevented from reaching the flour mills and principal buildings.

1813 (*March 31*).—The labourers employed in removing the hill of earth called the Mount, near the old castle, in Newcastle, found the skeletons of two men, about a foot and a half below the surface; one of them was lying with the face downward, and from the freshness of its appearance, would seem to have not been buried many years.

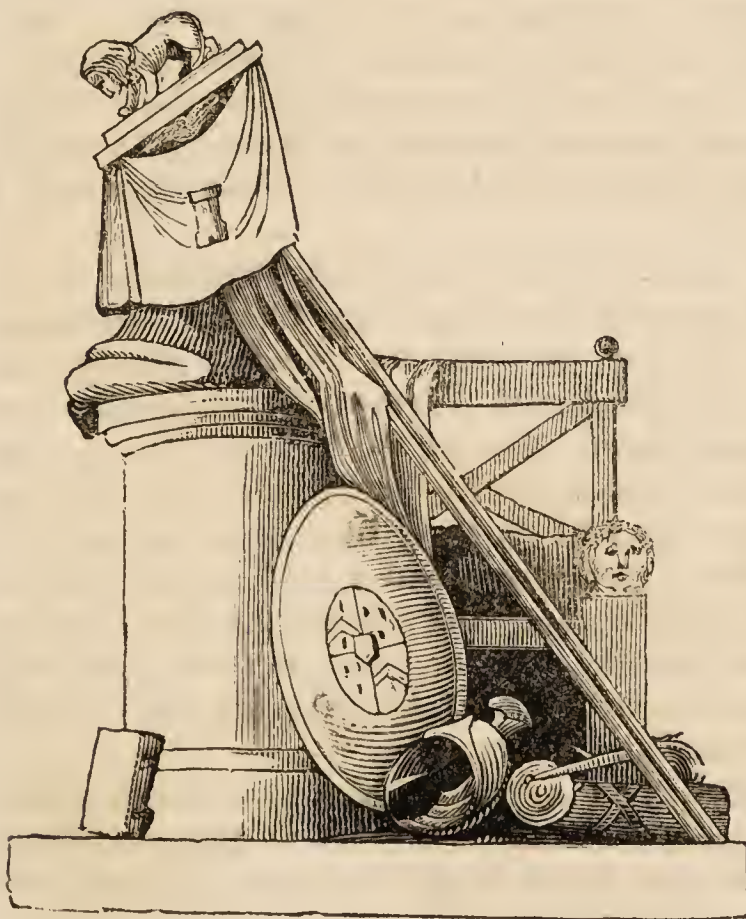
This month, died at Todholes, near Elsdon, in Northumberland, Mr. William Snowdon, farmer, aged upwards of 100 years.

April 1.—At the quarterly court of the Infirmary of Newcastle, an excellent full length portrait of William Ingham, esq., painted in consequence of a subscription by his private friends, was presented to the institution, as a testimony of respect for his valuable services to the charity as surgeon, during thirty-three years. The painting, which is admirably executed, is by Mr. Nicholson, of Newcastle. Mr. Ingham died November 26th, 1817. There is a very finely engraved portrait of Mr. Ingham, done at the expense of his family, and presented to particular friends.

April 6.—Died, in High Friar-street, Newcastle, William Gantney, aged 102 years. He had been 60 years an out-pensioner of Chelsea hospital.

April 12.—Died, at Great Whittingham, in Northumberland, Sarah Robson, aged 104 years. She reaped in the harvest field in her 102d year, and retained her faculties to the last.

April 15.—An act for improving the pier and port of Hartlepool, received the royal assent. It had long been in a ruinous state. This year also, a life-boat was established at Hartlepool.



April 16.—Died, at his house in Portland Place, London, after an illness of two days, Sir Matthew White Ridley, of Blagdon, in Northumberland, bart., in the 67th year of his age. May 3d, he was interred in the family vault in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle.—The concourse of sorrowing spectators on this melancholy occasion was very great. He was the representative of Newcastle in eight successive parliaments, also for many years an alderman of that corporation. He commanded the loyal Newcastle associated

volunteer infantry, from its first establishment in 1798, to the period of the general dismissal of the volunteers in 1813. He was one of the oldest members of the merchants' company, and at the period of his death, had been 35 years its governor. In 1819, a beautiful monument to his memory by Flaxman, was placed in the nave of St. Nicholas' church. It displays in very high relief, a full length figure of the deceased, as large as life, dressed in a Roman toga, and standing in a graceful and dignified attitude, with other attributes, together with a shield charged with the family arms. There is a large portrait of Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., engraved by Fittler, from a painting by Hoppner. There is also a reduced copy of this published by John Sykes. Lady Ridley, died August 3d, 1806. On the 18th, the body arrived in Newcastle, from London, and was interred in the family vault in St. Nicholas' church, the day following. The preceding wood-cut shews a portion of Sir M. W. Ridley's monument.

1813 (*April 16*).—George Wilson, of Newcastle, the celebrated pedestrian, whilst confined for debt in the gaol of Newgate, in that town, undertook for the trifling sum of three pounds one shilling, to walk 50 miles in twelve successive hours, within the prison walls. A small flagged yard, measuring thirty-three feet by twenty-five and a half, was chosen as the stage of action. This he performed four minutes and forty-three seconds within the time stipulated, being an uncommon effort in so circumscribed a situation, having taken 10,300 turns to make up the distance, at four turns to each round. He walked the last 6 miles in one hour, twenty minutes, and forty seconds. Since that time, this man has done various feats in pedestrianism both in London, Newcastle, and other places. There are various portraits of this pedestrian both in wood and copper; the former have accounts of his different pedestrian feats underneath. After his memorable struggle with the Blackheath magistrates, a life of him was published in London in 1815, 8vo. with a portrait, aged 50.

May 7.—Died, at Fowberry Tower, in Northumberland, in the 79th year of his age, George Culley, Esq., the eminent agriculturist and breeder. Mr. Culley, assisted by Messrs. Bailey and Pringle, drew up the "*Agricultural Survey of Northumberland Cumberland, and Westmoreland*," 8vo. 1805.

May 12.—Died, in the poor-house at Sunderland, Mr. Thomas Hunter, aged 104 years. He had formerly been a sea captain.

May 25.—The Society of Arts presented a gold medal to William Backhouse, esq. of Field House, near Darlington, for planting 300,000 larches, and 50,000 other timber trees, on waste ground; and to Jonathan Backhouse, jun. esq., of Darlington, for planting 271,000 larches, a silver medal.

The same day, the Society of Arts presented the lesser silver medal to Thomas White, esq., of Woodlands, in the county of Durham, for his application of larch bark to answer all the purposes of oak bark in tanning leather.

June 9.—A handsome school-house, built at an expense of nearly

£300., was opened at Heighington, in the county of Durham. The school was originally founded in 1601, by Elizabeth Jenison, of Walworth, widow of Thomas Jenison, esq.

1813 (*June 11*).—Died, at Barnardcastle, Mr. Cuthbert Vasey, farmer, aged 100 years.

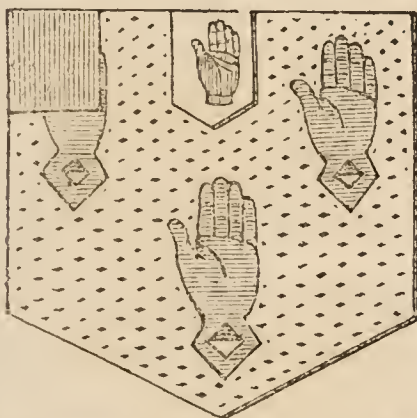
June 13.—A new Methodist chapel was opened at Stockton, and two appropriate discourses were delivered by the Rev. T. Lessey, to upwards of 2,000 people.

June 23.—The foundation stone of a new bridge over the river Allen, near Allendale smelt-mill, was laid by Colonel Wentworth Beaumont, with the usual ceremonies. In the centre of the stone were deposited several coins of George III. The colonel and a party of his friends afterwards partook of a cold collation with the committee; and on retiring, he gave £21. towards the erection of the bridge, and £5. to the workmen employed in building it.

July 6.—Died, at Fulham, near London, in the 79th year of his age, Granville Sharp, esq. This venerable character was born at Durham, on the 10th of November, 1735, O. S. He retained the vigour of his mind and body till within a short period of his dissolution, and, without any symptoms than those of natural decay, terminated a life which had been actively devoted to the best interests of liberty, religion, and humanity.

July 17.—An unfortunate accident happened by fire damp, at Collingwood Main colliery, on the river Tyne, by which eight men were killed, and two severely burnt. Several horses also suffered.

July 28.—Died, in Gateshead, Mary Gold, aged 101 years.



August 1.—Died, after a short but severe illness, at his seat at Wynyard, near Stockton, Sir Henry Vane Tempest, bart., M. P. for the county of Durham, and on the 12th, his remains were deposited in the family vault of Long-Newton. The melancholy procession left Wynyard at ten o'clock, attended by an immense train of his friends and tenantry, passing through Wolviston, Stockton, and Elton,

to Long-Newton. The road was thronged with anxious spectators, drawn from all parts of the county, to pay the last sad tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased. At two o'clock, the funeral procession reached Long-Newton, the ancient residence of the Vane family. The pall was supported by J. D. Nesham, R. E., D. Shafto, Edward Shipperdson, Richard Wright, Cuthbert Sharp, Thomas Wilkinson, John Wharton, and Robert Surtees, esquires. The chief mourners were M. A. Taylor, esq. M. P. and Mr. Vane. The church of Long-Newton was crowded to excess, and the solemn service was frequently interrupted by the sighs and tears of the congregation. It seemed as if every one present had lost his dearest friend and nearest connexion, so much was Sir H. V. Tempest beloved and lamented. May 31st, 1820, Lord Stewart (now marquis of Londonderry) presented a whole-length portrait

of Sir Henry Vane Tempest, in a splendid frame, to the Exchange Coffee-room at Sunderland.

1813 (*Aug. 9*).—About six o'clock in the evening, a fire broke out in the paper-hanging manufactory of Messrs. Goodlad and Co., situated in a yard opposite the Cross-house, in Westgate-street, Newcastle. This manufactory occupied part of the second story, and all the upper part of the building, and, with its contents, was entirely consumed. Considerable damage was sustained in the stable and warehouses of Mr. R. Pearson, drysalter, which were on the ground floor in the same building, and to whom the premises belonged. Mr. Hodgson, a coach-maker, whose work-shop was in the second story, also suffered considerable loss.

August 27.—As the workmen of Messrs. Hawks and Co. were trying some new ordnance, they, by some accident, missed their intended mark, and the ball went over into Gateshead, struck the stone in front of Mr. Roddam's house, broke eleven panes of glass, and fell into the street without other mischief.

September 1.—Died, at Heddon-on-the-Wall, Mrs. Ann Rutherford, aged 102 years.

September 2.—An ingenious and highly interesting experiment was performed in the presence of a vast concourse of spectators, on the railway leading from the collieries of Kenton and Coxlodge, near Newcastle, by the application of a steam-engine, constructed by Messrs. Fenton, Murray, and Wood, of Leeds, under the direction of Mr. John Blenkinsop, the patentee, for the purpose of drawing the coal waggons. About one o'clock the new invention was set a-going, having attached to it sixteen chaldron waggons loaded with coals, each waggon with its contents weighing four tons or thereabouts, making altogether an aggregate weight little short of seventy tons. Upon perfectly level road, the machine so charged, it was computed, would travel at the rate of three and a half miles per hour, but in the present instance its speed was short of that, owing, no doubt, to some partial ascents in the railway. Under all the circumstances, it was very highly approved of, and its complete success anticipated. After the experiment was finished, a large party of gentlemen connected with coal-mining partook of an excellent dinner provided at the Grand Stand for the occasion, when the afternoon was spent in the most agreeable and convivial manner.

September 21.—Died, at South Shields, Mr. William Bell, miller, aged 100 years.

September 28.—The Hall Pit at Fatfield colliery, in the parish of Chester-le-Street, fired from the foul air, and thirty-two men and boys were killed.

October 6.—The Rev. John Hodgson presented to the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle a copper coin of Egfrith, king of Northumberland, called a styca. This coin is of great rarity, so much so, that, according to Pinkerton, it is upwards of 150 years earlier than any other Saxo-Northumbrian coin known to be in existence. A small vessel of red earthenware, containing several

of these coins, was found in the chapel-yard of Heworth, in the county of Durham. The same gentleman afterwards presented the vessel to the above society.

1813 (*Oct. 10*).—An elegant new Methodist chapel, on the New Road, Newcastle, was opened for divine service, and collections were made towards the building, amounting to nearly £90. Part of this building was afterwards used as a granary, but the whole building is now again used as a place of worship.

October 18.—Died, in Newcastle, aged 55 years, Mr. Isaac Garner, printer. He was the author of many poetical pieces of considerable merit, which appeared in different journals, among which are “*The Hind, or a Voyage to the West Indies*,” “*The Splendid Guinea*,” “*Sonnet to the Rainbow*,” &c. These pieces particularly attracted public notice.

November 3.—The members of the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle, established under the patronage of his grace the duke of Northumberland, held their first meeting in apartments in the old castle of that town, which were neatly fitted up for their reception.

November 11.—Died, at Collingwood Main, near North Shields, Mrs. Richardson, aged 104 years. She retained all her faculties to within a few weeks of her death.

November 15, and the following day, the Northumberland militia passed through Newcastle, on its route to Scotland. The van division of the regiment, which was headed by lieut.-colonel Coulson, was, on its entrance into the town, greeted with a salute of guns from the old castle, the bells of St. Nicholas’ church rang a peal, and every demonstration of joy was displayed, in compliment to the “*Lads of the Tyne*.” The crowds of people assembled to meet them were immense. Dean-street was completely blocked as they marched up. The regiment had not been in Newcastle for upwards of ten years. June 24th, 1814, this regiment was disembodied at Alnwick; they had been in actual service upwards of eleven years.

November 20.—An alarming fire broke out in a building adjoining the Rev. Mr. Pringle’s new chapel, in Clavering-place, in Newcastle. The fire began in a room, which was used as a work-place by the joiner who was employed on the premises; but its origin could not be accounted for, as he had carefully watered out his fire at four o’clock, and another person who looked into the room about eight, found it perfectly dark. The building was entirely consumed, with its contents, among which was a valuable library belonging to the society. By great exertions, the chapel and the neighbouring houses were saved from conflagration. An extensive library in Mr. Cuthbert’s house adjoining was greatly injured, and at one time the fire had caught the roof of the chapel.

November 29.—Edward Moises, aged 16 years, only son of the Rev. Edward Moises, M.A., and Christopher Hesleton, aged 17 years, were unfortunately drowned in the new water pond on the Town-moor, Newcastle, from the ice giving way, whilst skaiting upon it. There is a neat mural monument to the memory of the former put

up in the vestibule of All Saints' church, into which is introduced his watch, still remaining at the time when it was stopped by the water.

1813 (*Nov. 29*).—Sunderland was illuminated three nights, to commemorate the glorious news of Holland and Hanover being free. On the above night, the town shone uncommonly brilliant, when were displayed numerous devices and transparencies of "ORANGE BOVEN," "WELLINGTON," &c. &c. The only drawback to the general joy was the fury of the lower orders towards that very peaceable sect, the Friends, who would not light up, and numerous were the squares of glass that were broken each night: one person of that persuasion had every square of glass in his house broken, and at one time several empty tar-barrels were in a blaze before his shop and house, to the great terror of the inmates.

December 15.—In celebration of Lord Algernon Percy having attained his 21st year, the bells of the different churches in Newcastle were rung through the day. The morning was ushered in at North Shields by a discharge of 21 guns in the Market-place. At noon, the Percy volunteer cavalry, commanded by Captain Coward, paraded in the Market-place, and fired a *feu de joie*, which was returned by a round of 21 guns. At sun-set another discharge of 21 guns took place, after which there was a grand dinner at Mrs. Carr's, the Northumberland arms inn; William Linskill, esq. in the chair. This young nobleman was at this time serving his country in the royal navy, stationed in the Mediterranean sea.

December 22.—There was a grand dinner at the Assembly-rooms in Newcastle, in commemoration of the deliverance of Holland from French oppression, and of the series of brilliant successes which had attended the arms of England and those of her allies. About six o'clock the company, consisting of two hundred, sat down to dinner, the right worshipful the mayor of Newcastle in the chair. Amongst the company present were the earl of Strathmore, Sir J. E. Swinburne, Sir Thomas Liddell, and Sir Charles Loraine, barts.; Cuthbert Ellison, esq., M. P., Major-general Fuller, the High-sheriffs of Northumberland and Durham, Archibald Reed, esq., Thomas Gibson, esq., &c. &c. The outside of the building was literally covered with variegated lamps, with the words "ORANGE BOVEN" in gilt letters. A transparency of the "*Dutch Night-mare*" representing Buonaparte asleep in his tent, with a huge Dutchman seated upon his breast, smoking his pipe, excited considerable curiosity.

December 24.—About half-past one o'clock on the morning, an explosion took place in Felling colliery, by which twenty-two persons were hurried into eternity, several others severely burnt, and all the under-ground horses but one destroyed. The accident occurred at the time of calling course, or when one set of men were relieving another. Several of the morning shift men were standing round the mouth of the pit, waiting to go down, when the blast occurred, and the part who had just descended met it soon

after they had reached the bottom of the shaft ; these were most miserably burnt and mangled. Among the unfortunate sufferers were the two overmen of the colliery, Mr. William Haswell and Mr. Thomas Morrows, and two of the deputies, Mr. Robert Stoves and Mr. Martin Greener. Some of the men left large families.

1813.—This year, a society was instituted at Sunderland for the prevention of accidents in coal mines.

The church of Elwick, in the county of Dūrmham, dedicated to St. Peter, was this year considerably repaired, and the leaden roof exchanged for slate. It is a picturesque, grey structure, with a low massy tower and buttresses.

This year, died, at Barnardcastle, Hugh Maclaine, aged 104 years.

1814 (*Jan. 15*).—The frost was so intense, that the river Tyne, at Newcastle, was completely frozen over. The temptation to indulge in skating was not to be resisted ; and on the above day (Saturday) a Dutch seaman put the strength of the ice to the test, by passing over it with beef bones tied to the soles of his shoes, and a long pole of wood in his hand, that in case the ice had broken under him, he might have supported himself with the pole until assistance had been afforded him. Numbers soon afterwards ventured upon it, and the next day, notwithstanding it snowed very hard almost the whole time, the skaters were numerous, and continued their diversion till the evening. On the Monday and Tuesday, the ice having been swept by the kcelmen, who, by this means, endeavoured to raise a little money to maintain themselves whilst laid off work by the frost, the number of people who ventured upon the ice was very great, and even ladies graced the scene with their presence. The skaters were very numerous, and amongst those who delighted the spectators by their grace and expertness in this most elegant exercise, were particularly noticed Cuthbert Ellison, esq., M.P. for Newcastle, and Messrs. Gibson, Horne, Bigge, Smith, &c. The ice, after these two days, was covered with such a quantity of snow as to render skating impracticable. The snow being reduced by a quantity of rain which fell, became afterwards so frozen as to present once more an uncommonly thick surface of ice. Of this opportunity numbers availed themselves ; the river, for several days, continued to be covered with crowds of people, amusing themselves in different ways upon its surface. Several booths were erected upon the ice, for the sale of spirituous liquors, and some fires kindled. The immense thickness of the ice removing all fear of danger, numerous parties, of all ages, ranks, and sexes, were to be seen in every direction, perambulating over its glassy surface, and enjoying the novelty of the scene. Several races took place, both with and without skates, for prizes consisting principally of different pieces of wearing apparel, as hats, stockings, &c., but in one instance, of the substantial comfort of a *leg of mutton* ! These afforded great amusement. On other parts of the ice, parties might be seen playing at foot-ball, quoits, &c., and in other directions, fruit and cake sellers, fiddlers, pipers, razor-grinders,

recruiting parties, &c., were to be met with. In short, the whole scene more resembled a country wake or fair, or a race-ground, than any thing else to which it could be compared. From the brilliancy of the moon, which was then full, the sports were continued each night to a late hour. Another partial thaw took place, but a very sharp frost succeeding, the same scenes and amusements were renewed. On one day, a horse and a sledge were upon the ice, and on another, a horse and a gig. Both getting on and off the ice was attended with some difficulty, the edges being so broken by the rising and falling of the tide. Gangways were laid down at different places, to remedy this inconvenience, and a toll being exacted from every person who passed over, became a source of revenue for those persons who were laid off employment by the frost. Each gangway was attended by four men, who were changed every day. The average thickness of the ice was stated at about ten inches; in some places there was a double ice. The sheet which admitted of skating extended from Redheugh to the Glass-house bridge. The navigation of the river was completely closed, as far down as St. Peter's Quay. The ice finally broke up on Sunday the 6th of February.

1814 (*Feb. 8*).—Died, at Tweedmouth, James Robinson, commonly called *Jemmy Dumps*, aged 94 years, an eccentric character. He was a drum-major at the battle of Preston, in 1746, and was highly offended when told that he ran away on that day. He gained his livelihood by leading coals and sand, and attending to farmers' carts, on the High-street at Berwick. He slept in the same apartment with his asses, and had not lain on a bed for twenty-two years.

The beginning of this month, two swords were found at Ewart Park, near Wooler; they seemed to be a compound of brass and copper, the handles quite wasted by time. They were twenty-one inches long from the handle to the point. They were found in a perpendicular position, as if stuck down on purpose. One of them was presented to the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle, by Mrs. St. Paul, of Ewart Park.

February 20.—Died, at Polam Farm, near Darlington, John Yarrow, aged 110 years. He was a native of Mason Dinnington, in Northumberland; was a servant to a farmer near North Shields, in 1715; and remembered assisting at the plough when the constables went into the field, and demanded the horses to convey military stores in the rebellion. He was able, the preceding summer, to cut turf in a field, as well as to attend to many domestic and rural occupations; his diet chiefly consisted of bread, milk, and cheese.

February 23.—Died, at Capheaton Clock-mill, Mrs. Margaret Tours, aged 104 years.

February 28.—Died, in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, Mrs. Mary Taylor, aged 103 years. She possessed all her faculties to the last moment, and walked about on the morning of her death.

March 6.—As the sexton was digging a grave on the north side

of Chatton church, he found a stone coffin about ten inches below the surface. It was securely and neatly covered with three stones. In the coffin were the remains of a human body. The skull was nearly perfect, and the teeth of the upper jaw were a full set; the thigh bone measured eighteen inches; but the skull was nearly full of water. The earth being carefully examined, one of Robert Bruce's silver pennies was found, also a steel spur, and several relics of ornamental brass and iron work, supposed to be the remains of the helmet of the warrior who had been interred in the coffin.

1814 (*March* 12).—As some labourers were at work on the summit of a green hill, in the farm of Old Earle, near Wooler, they struck into a complete urn of baked clay, unglazed, inverted on a flat stone, a little inclined. Some fragments of a human skull, and other bones, in a sound dry state, and a thin piece of flint, were found under the urn. The small end of the urn was not a foot below the surface, with a few stones remaining over it.

April 5.—An explosion took place in Howdon Pit, Percy Main colliery, when four human beings lost their lives.

April 7.—Died, at Barnardcastle, aged 82 years, William Hutchinson, esq., F. S. A., clerk of the lieutenancy of the county of Durham, whose death was preceded only two or three days by that of his wife, aged 78 years; they were both interred in the same grave. Mr. Hutchinson had distinguished himself by the publication of three county histories. 1. "*A View of Northumberland, with an Excursion to the Abbey of Mailross, in Scotland*," 1776, 1778, 2 vols. 4to. 2. "*The History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham*," 1785, 1787, 1794, 3 vols. 4to. 3. "*The History of the County of Cumberland, and some places adjacent, &c. &c.*" 1794, 2 vols. 4to. He also published "*An Excursion to the Lakes in Cumberland and Westmorland*," 1776, 8vo." "*The Spirit of Masonry*," 12mo., and various dramatic and miscellaneous works. There is a small portrait of Mr. Hutchinson on the title page of the *Spirit of Masonry*, also on the same plate with that of George Allan, esq., of the Grange, F. S. A., which forms the frontispiece of the 8th volume of Nichols' *Literary Anecdotes*. See page 3, May 18, 1800.

April 9.—Died, at Sunderland, Mary Pearson, aged 101 years.

April 13.—The city of Durham was elegantly illuminated on account of the news of the surrender of Paris to the Allies. On the morning, a great number of red, white, and orange flags were hoisted out of the windows in the different streets, which had a very good effect. The signal for lighting was given by the bells of the cathedral, and all the other churches beginning a merry peal at eight o'clock, and in a short time after, the whole city and suburbs were apparently in a blaze. The fountain in the college was tastefully decorated with coloured lamps, &c., as was also the town-hall. The many transparencies and devices which were exhibited at the principal houses, showed an uncommon degree of taste. An effigy of Buonaparte, mounted on an old horse, was carried through the streets, and at length brought to the market-place and committed

to the flames. A band of music paraded the streets, playing several martial airs, which added much to the hilarity of the evening.

1814 (*May 1*).—The petitions to parliament from Newcastle, against any alteration in the corn laws, were transmitted to the members of parliament for that town. They were signed in the course of three days by 11,500 persons, and filled ninety skins of parchment.

May 3.—The foundation stone of the Independent chapel in Chester-le-Street, was laid by the Rev. Ralph Davison, of the Postern chapel, in Newcastle, when, at the same time, he delivered an appropriate address to an attentive audience.

May 9.—Samuel Walker Parker, esq., entertained a large party to supper, &c., at his house at Low Elswick, near Newcastle. The Shot Tower was illuminated both inside and out with coloured lamps; round the galleries, &c., on the outside, and placed at intervals quite up the winding staircase in the inside; the *tout ensemble* had a fine effect. A considerable quantity of excellent fire-works was discharged on the field behind the works, and considerably heightened the pleasure of the scene. The Shot Tower was also illuminated, and had a flag flying on the following evening, and looked particularly well from Newcastle-bridge.

May 10.—Having been fixed for the illumination of Newcastle, on account of the peace of Europe, it was a day of general joy, and the town was crowded with strangers. Precisely at twelve o'clock the Right Worshipful Thomas Smith, esq., mayor, the recorder, aldermen, sheriff, town-clerk, and the other officers of the body corporate, attended by the stewards, and a numerous company of the free burgesses, went in procession from the Guildhall to the West-gate, to lay the foundation stone of a new hospital for indigent freemen and their widows. Upon the procession coming in view of the castle, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired, which was returned by loud cheerings in the open area fronting St. Nicholas' church. The procession then moved forward to the site of the building, and the arrangements having been previously made, the town-clerk read the inscription engraved upon a plate of brass, which being deposited, the mayor laid the foundation stone in due form, and then standing upon it, congratulated the immense assemblage of spectators on the combination of charity and public happiness in the business of the day. Mr. Joseph Clark then followed, and after a neat speech, proposed that the building should be called "*The Peace and Unity Hospital*." This was agreed to, and loudly cheered. The procession then returned in form to the Guildhall, where it separated. At half-past eight o'clock in the evening, the signal for illuminating was given by a gun from the castle, and the town was presently in a blaze of light. Never before was such an illumination seen in Newcastle. The weather also was favourable, dark, dry, and calm; and though the streets were crowded to excess, through the precautions taken by the mayor, all disorder was avoided; not a gun was fired nor a squib let off. Many persons wore white cockades; the number of variegated lamps was very

great, and probably the devices, serious and humourous, exceeded four hundred. At twelve o'clock a gun from the castle, announced that the time for extinguishing the lights had arrived, when in a few short fleeting moments "*all was dark.*" Not less than between forty and fifty thousand people were in the streets, many of them from a great distance. It seemed rather strange to see the Durham and Sunderland coaches, and Shields boats leaving Newcastle at eleven and twelve o'clock at night.

1814 (*May 12*).—North Shields was most brilliantly illuminated in honour of the peace.

Illuminations and other rejoicings took place at South Shields, at Berwick, Belford, Darlington, Stockton, Sunderland, and the other towns in Northumberland and Durham; each town vieing with the other in testifying their loyalty by various elegant transparencies and mottoes.

May 14.—Mr. Edward Wiggan, farmer, near Bedlington, was arrested in Newcastle, for a small debt, and safely lodged in gaol. At the time of his arrest, he declared that he would not long be in confinement, and on the 17th he made the following desperate attempt at escape; whilst walking with the other debtors on the top of the prison, he mounted the parapet of the gaol next to Gallowgate, where the wall was fifty feet high, and leapt off in the hope of reaching a dunghill which lay about five yards from the wall of the prison. He succeeded in reaching the outer edge of the dunghill, in which he sunk up to his knees, and it was perhaps owing to this circumstance that none of his bones were broken by the fall, but he was so dreadfully shaken, that on taking him up, no hopes were entertained of his recovery. He finally surmounted the injury.

May 19.—The Tyne Steam Packet, the first built upon that river for the conveyance of passengers, &c., between Newcastle and Shields, commenced its course. Being ascension day, it joined the procession of barges, &c., and was a great novelty. It was afterwards named "*The Perseverance.*" There are now (1831) upwards of thirty steam packets plying upon this river.

May 31.—The Society of Arts presented a gold medal to Mr. Edward Backhouse, of Darlington, for planting 363,600 larches on waste land.

Same day, the Society of Arts presented a silver medal and ten guineas to Mr. William Martin, of Wallsend, Northumberland, for his invention of a spring weighing machine. This very ingenious and self-taught mechanic was born at the Tow House, near Haltwhistle, in Northumberland, and is the brother of Mr. John Martin, the celebrated painter and engraver, and also of Jonathan Martin, who is of considerable notoriety for having set fire to York Cathedral. Mr. William Martin claims the original invention of the safety lamp; he has also made various models of bridges, railways, &c., &c., which prove him to be possessed of great mechanical ingenuity. In the year 1821, he published "*A New System of Natural Philosophy, on the Principle of Perpetual Motion,*" with a portrait, 8vo. This very curious work, in which he *refutes* Sir

Isaac Newton's Philosophy, is replete with visions, dreams, robberies, &c., &c.. This variously talented man has engraved several copper plates, among which are a flash bank note—the plates to illustrate the life of his brother Jonathan, which the latter hawked about for sale, also portraits of himself, views of York Cathedral done after the fire, and various others, and is at present (1831) engaged in engraving on steel. He is also a *Poet!* and has published



“*A New Philosophical Song or Poem Book, called the Northumberland Bard, or the Downfall of all false Philosophy,*” 1827, 8vo. He has repeatedly lectured in Newcastle and the neighbouring towns and villages, on *his own system* of Natural Philosophy. In June 1830, he undertook a *lecturing tour through England*, and returned in the summer of the following year, and he says with success, nobody daring to defend the Newtonian system. In August 1831, he sent by post a large packet, containing six or eight sheets of paper very closely written, to Baron Brougham,

lord high chancellor of England, explaining to his lordship the *Martinian system of Natural Philosophy* ! on the perusal of which, he is confident that his lordship will take such measures as to cause the *new system* to be universally adopted. Mr. Martin is a writer upon *almost every subject*, which has drawn forth attacks from numerous anonymous scribblers ; these he treats with great contempt, always boldly signing himself “ William Martin, Nat. Phil. and Poet.” The above portrait is copied from the engraving done from Mr. Parker’s painting of this philosopher.

1814 (*May*).—Died, at Ovingham, in Northumberland, Mrs. Johnson, aged 100 years.

June 2.—The skeleton of a man was found at the depth of thirty fathoms, in an old coal pit at Chirton, near North Shields. The discovery excited much curiosity. The duke of Argyle,* who resided at Chirton, in the reign of William III., built a small house of undressed stone, in a shrubbery, which was afterwards converted into a brothel, and remained there until the present proprietor came to the estate, who immediately pulled it down. About the year 1784, a young sea-faring man disappeared, and was never more heard of. One of the nymphs of this house, vulgarly called *Cushet Hall*, remembered a young man being rudely taken away from her by three men on the Newcastle road, and he was supposed to be thrown down the pit near the house. The pit was then being filled up by order of the owners ; the rubbish had filled it to within about thirty or forty fathoms of the top. The workmen proceeded and entirely closed it. The owners of Collingwood Main having occasion for a shaft there, caused the rubbish to be cleared out, in doing which, the skeleton was discovered. Several of the ribs were broken. The soles of the shoes were very perfect.

June 20.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Ann Corby, aged 105 years, who, till within a year of her death, earned her subsistence by selling vegetables. She retained her mental faculties till her death.

June 25.—At noon the right worshipful the mayor of Newcastle, attended by the other officers of the corporation, and preceded by the mace, sword of state, &c., and trumpeters, walked in procession from the Guildhall to proclaim the peace, which was done by the town-marshal, upon the Sandhill, and afterwards in the Wheat-market, in Newgate-street, and in the Castle-garth. The procession was loudly cheered by the populace, and saluted by a discharge of guns from the castle, and peals of bells from St. Nicholas’ church.

This month, died, at North Shields, Mr. William Robson, aged 101 years.

July 20.—South Shields was visited by a tremendous thunder storm, which occasioned considerable damage. The electric fluid entered the house of Mr. Oliver, in Albion-street, and passed along the bell-wires into two or three rooms, in one of which a bedstead, bedding, &c. were literally burnt to ashes, but fortunately the

* See September 3d, 1810, page 58.

fire was extinguished without doing further harm. The dwelling-house of Mr. Hodge, adjoining Mr. Oliver's, was also much injured, several of the chimnies were thrown down, and the roof considerably damaged. Happily no part of either family received the slightest injury. A person in Mrs. Errington's, the Black Bull public house, high end of the town, was struck during the storm, but not materially hurt, at the same time, the clock in that room was very much shattered.

1814 (*July*).—A set of fifteen gold beads, on a bar of metal, of which the annexed wood cut is a representation, were found under a cairn on Chesterhope Common, in the manor of Redesdale, in Northumberland. They were presented to the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle, by his grace the late duke of Northumberland.



July 28.—Between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, whilst the atmosphere was obscured by a dense fog, the town and vicinity of North Shields was visited by a violent storm of thunder and lightning. In its commencement the thunder rolled with awful grandeur until it nearly attained its climax, when the hearing became suddenly stunned by a tremendous crash. The lightning struck the house of Mrs. Wilkinson, the Bull Ring inn, broke several tiles, descended from the upper story to the next, forced out a number of bricks, damaged the window boards, entered the apartment beneath, and broke a bullion square of glass in the shop window of an anchor-smith adjoining. The grandson of Mrs. Wilkinson was slightly struck by the electric fluid and much terrified; when fears being entertained on account of the servant who had been employed in the upper story, some persons proceeded to the spot, when they were much shocked on finding the poor girl sadly scorched on her side and neck, her voice was enfeebled, and her clothes were considerably burnt and her pockets torn off. She eventually recovered. The lightning also struck and materially injured the warehouse of Messrs. Coward and Johnson, from whence directing its course to the house of Mrs. Wealands adjoining, it entered a clock which stood at the head of the staircase, and which it shivered to fragments, leaving the metal work uninjured; proceeding from the clock, the lightning burst the door frame near which Mrs. W. was standing, threw the opposite door off the hinges, and in its descent broke the four wooden supporters of a bird cage without injuring the bird, or appearing to have even touched the wires. The glass of the window through which

it made its final exit was shivered to pieces. Two boats were sunk on the south side of the river. During the most considerable

part of the night there was lightning and thunder, and the rain descended in torrents.

1814.—In the summer of this year, some workmen discovered, on the northern side of the southern peak at Tunstall, near Sunderland, about six feet from the base, a rude sepulchre, formed of common lime-stones, and covered with the same materials. On the floor were deposited the fragments of three urns, of very rude and inelegant form, ornamented with zigzag; and all of them containing a rich dark mould, in which were interspersed small fragments of bone, and some human teeth.

August 10.—A grand masonic procession took place in Newcastle, on account of the union of the Athol with St. Nicholas' lodge. There were about 600 in the procession, amongst whom were Sir J. E. Swinburne, bart., P. G. M., Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., M. P., Cuthbert Ellison, esq., M. P., William Loraine, esq., Isaac Cookson, esq., the Rev. John Collinson, rector of Gateshead, the Rev. Mr. Wasney, &c. In consequence of the vicar of Newcastle having refused the use of St. Nicholas' church, the procession marched to Gateshead church, where they heard divine service, after which £112. 16s. 10d. was collected for the benefit of the Infirmary. 214 of the brethren afterwards dined at the Turk's Head inn.

August 12.—A melancholy accident happened at Hebburn colliery, near Newcastle. Elias Mould, under-viewer, had descended one of the pits, with the deputies and overmen, to change the course of the air for ventilation, when the pit fired, and himself and ten others were unfortunately burnt to death.

August 14.—Died, in Parliament-place, Westminster, Edward Hussey Delaval, esq., of Doddington, in Northumberland, aged 85 years. Mr. Delaval was a man of very distinguished genius and merit. He was M. A. and Fellow of Pembroke-hall, Cambridge, and an excellent classical scholar. Chemistry and experimental philosophy were his favourite pursuits. In 1759, he was elected a member of the Royal Society, and in 1765 was complimented with their gold medal, for a paper which he read to that illustrious body. The Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester also voted him their gold medal for his philosophical researches; and the Royal Societies of Upsal and Gottingen, and the Institute of Bologna, unsolicited, enrolled him amongst their members. Mr. Delaval corresponded, and was in habits of intimacy, with most of the scientific characters of his day.

August 25.—There were upwards of 10,000 salmon in Berwick market, which had been caught in the river Tweed.

September 8.—Died, in London, Mr. Thomas Spence, a native of Newcastle, author of several curious political works. Mr. S. devised and published a plan by which all human kind could be provided with sustenance without pauperism. In 1801, he underwent a state prosecution, was convicted, and endured a year's incarceration, and was also subjected to a fine, of which he ever after boasted, and used to say it would be the means of one day ushering his doctrines into universal notice. His remains were attended

by a numerous throng of political admirers. Appropriate medals were distributed, and a pair of scales preceded his body, indicative of the justice of his views. One of his friends made an oration over his grave illustrative of his public and private qualities. Upon Mr. Spence's principles a sect was founded, called "The Spenceans."

1814 (*Sept. 9*).—An explosion took place in the Leafield colliery, in the parish of Chester-le-Street, which killed four men, and much injured five others.

September 10.—The first number of the Durham County Advertiser was published in Durham, under the firm of Francis Humble and Co. This was originally "The Newcastle Advertiser," and, after having had various owners, it was removed to Durham. It is at present published by Mr. Francis Humble. *See Oct. 18, 1788, vol. i. page 348.*

September 20.—A grand musical festival commenced at Newcastle, which continued for three days. The performances consisted of three grand oratorios in St. Nicholas' church, and three miscellaneous concerts in the theatre. On the last day there were between 2,000 and 3,000 persons at the church, and the theatre was crowded to excess. The receipts exceeded £2,300; one-fifth was given to the Infirmary. Every one who partook of the mental treat expressed the utmost satisfaction at the wonderful powers of Madam Catalani and Mr. Braham.

October 8.—About three o'clock on the morning, a fire was discovered in the farm-yard of Mr. Ralph Atkinson, of South Gosforth, near Newcastle, which destroyed the whole of the hay, amounting to about 150 tons, together with eleven corn-stacks. The fire was supposed to have originated from the heat of the haystacks. The thrashing machine was also much damaged by the fire.

October 22.—An inquest was held at Bishopwearmouth Pans on the body of Margaret Poole, who had poisoned herself by purposely taking a large quantity of laudanum. The coroner's verdict was "*Felo de se*," and in consequence she was buried in the public highway, on the 24th, in the presence of a great concourse of spectators.

Oct. 28.—Died, at Cleasby, near Darlington, Ann Donnel, aged 105 years.

November 8.—A new bridge built over the river Till, near Red Scar, in Northumberland, fell down with a tremendous crash. The architect, who was below removing some props, was unfortunately killed, being buried in the ruins.

November 11.—Died, in the Manor Chare, Newcastle, Mr. William Middleton, aged 101 years.

November 27.—Died, at Percy Main, near North Shields, Mrs. Mary Tulip, spinster, aged 100 years.

December 8.—Died, at Hexham, Mary Porch, aged 100 years.

December 10.—Died, at his house in Somerset-street, Portman-square, London, in the 81st year of his age, the Rev. Dr. Scott, rector of Simonburn, in Northumberland. This very popular divine

was a native of Leeds. He published ten Occasional Sermons, also three Seatonian Prize Poems, &c., which exalt him high as a poet. As a public speaker he had scarce an equal, and his compositions were of the most elegant kind.

1814 (*Dec. 16*).—A great hurricane commenced about sun-rise, and continued through the whole day, which did great damage to Newcastle and the neighbourhood. About eight yards of the parapet wall, which surrounds the roof of All Saints' church, was blown into Silver-street; and a large stone urn was blown from the steeple, and fell at the head of the Butchers' Bank. A window also of that church, one of St. Nicholas', and one of Hanover-square chapel, were blown in. Stacks of chimnies in the houses of George Waldie, esq., S. W. Parker, esq., Dr. Headlam, Mr. Turner, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Bell, and many others, were blown down, and falling on the roofs, completely destroyed them. A house belonging to Mr. Charles Turner, in Pilgrim-street, had the roof and two upper stories entirely destroyed. The high brick wall that enclosed Mr. Croser's garden, at the Shield-field, was blown down into the lane. The fury of the tempest was most conspicuous in the vicinity of the river Tyne, which, swelled by the rains, came rolling down like a sea, and beating with fury against the bridge, the spray was carried forward by the wind into the lower parts of the town, where it fell with all the effect of a shower of rain. The ships at the Quay were obliged to strike their topgallant-masts, and not a boat durst venture on the river. A sailor was blown from the mast of a vessel at the Quay, and, falling on the deck, was killed on the spot. Two wherries were upset on the river, from both of which the people were saved. Another, laden with cinders, was swamped near the Close. Several keels were also swamped, and the crews of several which were overtaken on their passage by the storm, were obliged to throw the greatest part of their coals overboard, to save themselves from sinking. Carr's-hill and Gateshead-fell, from their exposed situations, particularly felt the effects of the storm. A great part of Jarrow church was unroofed, and many yards of a high garden wall at Westoe, belonging to William Ingham, esq., was blown down. The same gentleman had a hay-stack thrown down and scattered by the wind in all directions. Many other stacks shared the same fate, and several trees were torn up by the roots. At North Shields, several houses were unroofed, and numerous chimnies, walls, &c. were blown down. Many keels and wherries were sunk, and a keel belonging to Messrs. Nichol and Ludlow was crushed to pieces. One man fell from a keel near the New Quay, and was drowned in the sight of several persons, who could render him no assistance. A keel was driven out to sea with its crew on board, who, after great exertions, happily succeeded in reaching Holy Island in safety. A garden brick wall, thirty yards long, near Bedford-street, with the fruit trees, was laid flat, almost in a mass. At Durham and the vicinity much damage was done. A stack of chimnies in Lord Barrington's house, in the College, being blown down, fell upon

the roof, through which it penetrated into the best lodging-room, destroying the bed, and forcing its way into the drawing-room below. Another stack of chimnies fell from the house of Dr. Gray into the College. At the new school in Claypath, large slates were blown to a distance of sixty yards : no person received any injury. At Sunderland, the gale blew with indescribable fury. About one o'clock, a garden wall, on the east side of Nile-street, Bishopwearmouth, was blown down, and Mr. George Cameron, a very respectable master mason, of Sunderland, who was passing by at the time, was so severely wounded on the head, that he only survived three hours. The bricks flew with such violence across the street as to break several squares of glass in the houses on the opposite side. Several houses in Sunderland and the neighbourhood were entirely unroofed, and numbers were partially so.

1814.—Henry Collingwood Selby, esq., of Swansfield-house, near Alnwick, has erected, on a commanding eminence called the Camp-hill, a little to the south of his mansion, an elegant stone column, to commemorate the victorious efforts of Britain and her allies, during the late war, and the restoration of peace to Europe, in the above year. On the square tablets of the four sides are suitable inscriptions.

A handsome cross was this year erected at Corbridge, at the expense of the late duke of Northumberland. In 1809, the old cross was taken down, and was in the possession of the late George Anderson, esq. of Newcastle, who placed it in the Nun's Field, behind his house ; but in 1828, when this piece of ground was thrown open to the public, it was again taken down.

The spire of Potter-gate Tower in Alnwick, was this year taken down, by order of the chamberlains and common council of the borough. It bore a striking resemblance to the steeple of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle. The tower, which was sixty feet in height, was erected on the site of the Old Gate, in the year 1768.

This year, died at Whitley, near North Shields, Eleanor Gibson, aged 108 years.

1815 (*Jan. 2*).—The front of a house situated on the Bank-side, in the Castle-garth, Newcastle, tenanted by five families, fell down, and its inhabitants were placed in the greatest danger. Fortunately, however, a ladder was near the place, by the assistance of which, the children were taken out of the upper window from their perilous situation.

January 15.—Died, at Park-house, near Morpeth, Mr. George Jewit, dyer and bleacher, in his 100th year.

January 20.—Died, at South Shields, James Sheriff, seaman, aged 100 years.

January 29.—Died, at Framlington, in Northumberland, Mrs. Thompson, aged 101 years.

February 4.—Died, near Hexham, Mrs. Eleanor Charlton, aged 99 years ; her brother George, died at Birtley, aged 103 years ; and James, at Hexham, aged 97 ; and her sister Elizabeth, died at Wark, aged 100 years.

1815 (*Feb. 4.*).—Died at East Sleekburn, near Morpeth, Mr. Stephen Watson, farmer, aged 101 years.

March 5.—The Newcastle petitions against the corn bill, were this day (Sunday) sent off to London. There were three petitions, each 60 yards long, which contained 25,500 signatures, all signed within the short space of two days.

March 6.—Died, in Framwellgate, Durham, Jane Maddison, aged 100 years.

March 17.—Died, at Shadforth, near Durham, Mary Paddison, aged 103 years.

March 20.—In the afternoon, a number of misguided persons, principally keelmen and casters on the river Wear, assembled in a riotous manner near Sunderland, and determined to pull down the bridge which had been erected across Galley's Gill, near Bishopwearmouth, for the purpose of conveying the coal-waggons belonging to Messrs. Nesham and Co. to the staiths below. They then proceeded to their work of destruction; and having entirely pulled down the bridge, set fire to the staiths at the head of the bridge, and burnt all the machinery which was erected there for the purpose of conveying the waggons down the inclined plane to the spouts, where the coals were put on shipboard without the intervention of keels. They also pulled down one house, and unroofed several others. It continued till a late hour at night, when a party of horse arrived from Newcastle, and dispersed the mob. One man was killed by some of the falling timbers striking him. The occasion of this tumultuous proceeding originated in an idea, that other similar staiths were about to be erected upon the Wear, in consequence of which, there would not be so much employment for keelmen and casters. The injury done was estimated at £6,000.

April 6.—Died at Norton, near Stockton, Ann Cumming, aged 101 years.

May 3.—A dreadful accident took place in Heaton Main Colliery, near Newcastle. The workings of the colliery at this time were in one of the lower seams, at a very great depth, having a considerable dip or inclination from one side to the other, the shafts being on the lower side. The upper and neighbouring seams had formerly been wrought as a colliery, under the name of Heaton Banks, by shafts distinct from the present workings, and which shafts when the colliery was given up, were covered over with boards and earth. In the course of time, these old workings had become entirely filled with water, which at about half-past four o'clock on the morning of the above day (Wednesday), broke through the roof in the north-west part of the present colliery, at a point where the strata are disturbed by a dyke, and inundated the workings. Some of the men who were working near the spot where the water forced its entrance, ran immediately to the shafts, and happily escaped from the pit. On their way they met Mr. Miller, the under viewer, and informed him of what had happened, when he ran to give the alarm to the other men, who were working in the higher part of the pit, in the hope that they might be

able to effect their escape also ; but this, alas ! was not permitted. The water rushed in with dreadful rapidity, and flowing naturally to the lower parts of the workings, soon cut off the only means of escape, by closing the lower mouth of the shafts, in which the water soon rose to the depth of nineteen fathoms. Exertions were immediately made to reach the spot where the men were supposed to be, from some other workings, but without success, as the shafts of the old workings were choaked up by the earth, &c. which covered their mouths when deprived of the support of the water, having fallen in, dragging after it many trees which had been planted in their vicinity. Attempts were made in front of Heaton-hall, to endeavour to reach the old workings through a shaft which had not fallen in, but these also were unavailing, on account of being filled with inflammable air. Three large engines (one of 130 horse-power) were incessantly employed in endeavouring to draw the water from the pit, but without effect, as the water in the shaft amounted at first to nineteen fathoms, but it subsequently gained upon them, from which it appeared that some internal reservoir had burst into the pit. At three o'clock on Thursday, it stood at thirty fathoms. During the night the water gained upon the engines, notwithstanding they discharged 1,200 gallons per minute. The water in the lowest shaft was plumbed early on the Friday morning, when it was found to be thirty-three fathoms.—By this catastrophe, 75 persons (41 men and 34 boys) lost their lives, together with the whole stock of horses which were down at the time. In the distance between the back of Heaton and Benton-bridge, seven of the shafts belonging to the workings of an old colliery on Heaton Banks, fell in, presenting most frightful chasms. Of many of these, the surface exhibited not the least vestige, nor was their existence known in the neighbourhood. The old colliery is said to have been discontinued on account of the influx of water, which was so great, that seven engines, of the construction of that day, could not get the better of it. The first steam-engine used in this part of the country was erected at Heaton, and most probably on this colliery.* From various difficulties, the bodies of these unfortunate men were not arrived at until upwards of nine months from the time of the accident. The sufferers who thus found a living grave, left twenty-four widows and seventy-seven orphans, besides Mrs. Miller and her eight children, to deplore their untimely fate. On the 6th of January 1816, the first human body of the sufferers was brought to bank, in a state of great decay, but ascertained, by the neckcloth, to be that of William Scott, between 70 and 80 years of age, who attended one of the furnaces. Of a knife which the deceased had in his pocket, the haft only (of bone) was entire, the blade being entirely corroded by the mixture of the pyrites in the mine with the water. His watch was also nearly destroyed by the same cause. It may, however, afford some speculation to the curious, that the articles of linen on the deceased were quite fresh and uninjured, but those of woollen fabric entirely

* See 1714, vol. i. page 133.

destroyed. In a few weeks afterwards, the remains of the rest of these unfortunate men were found in different situations in the workings of the pit. February 20th, thirty-nine of the bodies, forming a melancholy procession, were interred in trenches in the south-east corner of Wall's-End church-yard. Many of the bodies, when found, were nearly naked, and all in a state of great decay.

1815 (*June 1*).—Died, in the workhouse of Chester-le-Street, Mrs. Allen, aged 104 years.

June 2.—At five o'clock in the afternoon, a dreadful explosion took place in the Success Pit, near Newbottle, in the county of Durham, belonging to Messrs. Nesham and Co. At the time the accident happened, seventy-two men and boys were at work in the pit, and though the flame did not ascend the shaft, yet a large column of dust plainly indicated to the workmen above ground the sad catastrophe that had happened. Immediate exertions were made to save, if possible, the lives of those in the pit, in which they so far succeeded as to bring all the bodies to bank by the morning of the 4th. Very few of the bodies were disfigured, and in many life was still extant; several of whom, shocking to relate, died the moment they breathed the fresh air! Of the seventy-two in the pit, fifteen survived, some of whom were severely hurt. Of nineteen horses in the pit, six were killed. It appeared the fire had passed down the ways, destroying all that encountered its fury, until it was impeded and broken, as it is termed, by a large waggon, which it dashed to pieces, and mangled the driver and horse in a most shocking manner. After the torrent had passed by them, the men left the workings in hopes of effecting their escape; but few, alas! were able to reach the shaft, and even some of those, overpowered by after-damp, at the very moment they hoped to have escaped, fell to rise no more! The first person that reached the surface was a little boy, six years of age. By this accident, fifty-seven valuable lives were lost.

June 9.—A meeting was held in the Town-hall, in Alnwick, (William Burrell, esq., of Broom-park, in the chair,) for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of establishing a dispensary in that town, for the benefit of the poor in Coquetdale, Bamborough, and Glendale wards, which was immediately carried into execution by a very liberal subscription.

June 11.—As some children were playing in a brick-yard near Shield-field, Newcastle, they picked up several guineas from some rubbish that had been led from the cellar of the Grey Horse public-house, on the Quay. The circumstance having spread, people flocked to the place that evening and the whole of the next day, many of whom were well rewarded for their trouble. The cartman who had led the rubbish, hearing of the good fortune of so many, and recollecting that he had taken some of it to a brick-yard near Bridge-street, went thither and found several guineas. This place, too, became a scene of industry. One man went at night with a dark lantern, and lined his pockets with gold. One

girl got twenty-two guineas; some of them were dated 1759, but most of them were of the coinage of 1777. Various were the conjectures employed to account for this treasure being in so extraordinary a situation. Some people related, that, about forty years before, a traveller was robbed in the Grey Horse, and that a servant, who was suspected and turned away, had concealed the plunder in the cellar, and had not afterwards an opportunity of carrying it off. Others reported, that a landlord of the above house had said upon his death-bed, that he was worth a sum of money, which could not afterwards be found, and imagined that this must have been the wealth to which he alluded.

1815 (*June 14*).—As some workmen were employed at the North-shore, near Newcastle, they discovered two human skeletons, the bones of which were in a perfect state. They were both lying together, and one diagonally over the other.

June 27.—On the morning of this day, Sheriff-hill colliery, near Gateshead, fired, during the time that Mr. William Foggett, the viewer, and his two brothers were down, all of whom were killed by the blast, and eight of the workmen were also suffocated by what is termed the after-damp.

June 27.—In the evening, Count Lynch, mayor of Bourdeaux, arrived in Newcastle, on his road to visit his relation, John Clavering, esq., of Callaly. As soon as it was known who the stranger was, he was greeted with a peal of bells (about a quarter past ten o'clock at night), and which was continued at intervals till past twelve. On the following morning, the count breakfasted with Thomas Davidson, esq., Westgate-street, and afterwards paid his respects at the Mansion-house, and likewise waited upon several of the Catholic families in Newcastle. As soon as the mail arrived, confirming the intelligence of the defeat of the French army under Buonaparte, the populace assembled at the Queen's Head inn, where the count was, and congratulated him on the news, and again greeted him with repeated huzzas. It will be remembered that Count Lynch was the first to hoist the white flag in France, and surrendered Bourdeaux to the British arms. On the count's arrival at Morpeth, he was welcomed with a peal of bells, and the applause of an immense concourse of spectators. The populace were regaled with ale, and the count and Mr. Clavering joined them at the window in drinking the king, army, &c. On his departure, the populace took the horses from his carriage, and dragged him through the principal streets.

July 1.—Died at Broom-Ridge, in Northumberland, Bridget Mahon, aged 103 years.

July 31.—A shocking accident happened at Newbottle colliery, owing to the boiler of the locomotive engine bursting from being too strongly charged. It was the first trial of the machine, which was intended to draw twenty waggons, and a number of persons had assembled around it to witness its setting off. The brakesman was dashed to pieces, and another man cut in two by the fragments of the boiler, and a little boy thrown a great distance and killed.

About fifty others (of whom some died) were most severely scalded and wounded.

1815 (*July*).—This month, a man employed in cutting a drain behind a house on the south side of the Main-street, Monkwearmouth, discovered the remains of two human skeletons, about three feet beneath the surface, in a bed of dark brown sand, covered with a large stone, but without the slightest appearance of a coffin; one of the skeletons appeared to be that of a female.

August 28.—In the night, the house of Miss Smith (now Lady Peat), at Herrington, in the county of Durham, was set fire to, after being robbed. Miss Smith was from home at the time, but a servant girl, named Isabella Young, was found in a passage leading to the kitchen, nearly naked, with two wounds on the back part of the head, and a large fracture on the fore part of it, which had occasioned her death. The fire, when discovered about two o'clock on the morning of the 29th, had not reached the body of the girl, but it appeared evident such had been the intention of the perpetrators. At the assizes, held in the city of Durham, on the 13th of August, 1819, John Eden, James Wolfe, and George Wolfe, his son, were put upon their trial for burglary, murder, and arson, at Herrington; and after the attention of the court had been occupied upwards of nine hours, a verdict of guilty was given against John Eden and James Wolfe, who were sentenced to be hanged on the 16th. After their conviction, some circumstances appearing in favour of Wolfe, some members of the Society of Friends instituted an inquiry into the particulars of the case, when an *alibi* was established, proving by numerous affidavits, that James Wolfe was *one hundred miles!!!* from Herrington when the murder, &c. had been committed. September 26th, he received a free pardon from the king, and was released from prison. The success attending their endeavours for Wolfe, induced the same benevolent individuals to look into the case of Eden (who still persisted in his innocence), and they found, to their great joy, that this man had been falsely sworn to, by James Lincoln, a seaman of Sunderland, no doubt for the reward offered. Eden was also liberated, having obtained his Majesty's pardon. At the summer assizes, held in the city of Durham, August 4th, 1820, James Lincoln was tried, and, upon the clearest evidence, was found guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury.

September 1.—Mr. Sadler, in his balloon and car, ascended from the Bowling-green (afterwards Bond-street, now Prudhoe-street), Newcastle. The day was uncommonly fine, and at an early hour the town was thronged with people to witness this unusual exhibition. The process of inflation was commenced at half-past ten, and before twelve, considerable numbers had assembled in the Green, where two bands of music were stationed for the recreation of the company. At length the discharge of a cannon announced that the inflation was completed; but some further time elapsed before all the subsequent preparations were completed, and before the balloon could be brought to the platform. At a quarter after

three, the balloon was brought forward with some difficulty, on account of the high state of the wind, when the attention of every one was instantly fixed with anxious expectation on this strange vehicle, and the daring *aéronaut* who was preparing to commit himself to the bosom of the wind. At length, after receiving his flag from the hands of Mrs. Ellison, of Hebburn, the order to play "God save the King" was given; soon after which, the car was disengaged, when the balloon rose with a tremendous bound from the platform, and dashed with amazing velocity over Northumberland-street, in a direction nearly E. N. E. Soon after its ascent, the flag of the young *aéronaut* was observed waving in the air, but the balloon was carried forward with such rapidity, that its motions soon became indistinct, and the balloon diminished to little more than a speck. It continued in sight about fifteen minutes, when it appeared rapidly to approach the earth; on throwing out the anchor one of the flukes broke, which caused it to be dragged some distance. At length the balloon and car were secured near to the seat of T. Wright, esq., at Whitley Park, and within two hundred yards of the sea, being twenty-one minutes from leaving the Bowling-green. From Mr. Wright and the gentlemen in the neighbourhood, the *aéronaut* received the most polite and friendly attention. About eight o'clock in the evening, Mr. Sadler returned to town, and, as he passed through the streets, was loudly greeted by the huzzas of the people. September 29th, 1824, Mr. Sadler was killed by a fall from his balloon, after having ascended majestically from the yard of the gas-works at Bolton, in Lancashire.

1815 (*Sept.* 16).—In consequence of the sudden reduction of the navy, happening at the time of the arrival of the ships from the Greenland and other trades, an immense body of seamen was at once thrown, unprovided for, upon the country, and in much greater numbers than could possibly, in so short a space of time, find employment in the merchant service. Great numbers of unemployed seamen consequently accumulated at the several out ports, and particularly at Shields and Sunderland, where they ill-advisedly endeavoured to obtain employment from the ship-owners, by insisting that every ship should have a complement of five men and a boy for every 100 tons register admeasurement. In order to obtain this demand, they for several weeks assembled in large bodies, and forcibly prevented the sailing of all ships, by taking out the seamen, whom they compelled to join their body, under pain of having their faces blacked and jackets turned, and being thus exhibited through the public streets, with other contemptuous treatment. They observed the strictest discipline among themselves, and severely punished those who were guilty of any disturbance, calling the roll every morning, and fining those who were absent without leave, and a watch was set every night to patrol the streets, and clear them of those who were guilty of any disorder, so that the greatest order prevailed in Shields' streets. On the above day, (*Saturday*) a general meeting was held upon Cullercoats Sands, when about 3,000 were present, and on Wednesday

the 20th, another was held at the same place of the seamen from Shields, Sunderland, and Blyth, consisting of about 7,000, when, after consulting on the measures to be adopted, they separated without committing the least outrage. The above meetings had a very alarming appearance, being composed principally of men just liberated from his majesty's service; but the ship-owners resisting their demands, and getting the aid of the navy and military, together with the vigorous measures pursued by the magistrates, the seamen were subjected without bloodshed, and brought to a sense of their duty, October 24th, 1815, when near two hundred vessels proceeded to sea.

1815 (*Dec. 8*).—As four of the workmen were employed on a stage seventy fathoms down the shaft of Nesham's Main Colliery, repairing the masonry, one of them came to bank to get something he wanted; while talking to the banksman, and incautiously passing along a plank, he fell down upon the stage he had a few minutes before left, and so great was the force acquired in his fall, that three beams, six inches by four, which supported the stage, were broken by the shock, and the poor fellow and his three companions were precipitated to the bottom (55 fathoms further) and all dashed to pieces.

December 9.—This day (Saturday) their imperial highnesses the archdukes, John and Lewis of Austria, with their suite arrived in Newcastle; soon after which, they were waited upon by the right worshipful the mayor and several of the aldermen, when the mayor requested the honour of entertaining them at the mansion-house, which their imperial highnesses declined, observing that they were sensible of the honour intended them, but that they wished to be considered as travelling privately. On the same day they visited Shields, and Wallsend, and Percy Main Collieries, where they were attended by John Buddle, esq., who described to them the nature of the subterraneous workings, &c. On Sunday forenoon they attended at the Catholic chapel in Newcastle; and in the afternoon paid a visit to Sunderland to see the cast-iron bridge of that town. Their imperial highnesses and suite expressed great astonishment and pleasure at the structure and ingenuity in the erection of the same, and its wonderful span. On Monday they proceeded, attended by T. H. Bigge and Joseph Lamb, esqrs., to Lemington, to see the iron and glass-works established there. Their attention was forcibly arrested by the locomotive engine at work upon Wylam waggon-way. After partaking refreshment at Mr. Lamb's they returned, and afterwards visited the shot and white-lead works at Low Elswick, and Messrs. Hawks' iron foundry at New Greenwich. On the Tuesday morning, their imperial highnesses set off on their way to the south.

1815 (*Dec. 11*).—A fire unfortunately took place in Sheriff Hill Colliery, owing to the wooden partition which separated the upcast from the downcast shaft, taking fire from the coal lamp, which is used to cause the updraught of air necessary for the ventilation of the pit. Every exertion was used to get both men and horses out

of the pit, as the destruction of the partition necessarily destroyed the circulation of air within the workings. They succeeded in getting out all but five wastemen, who unhappily perished.

1815 (*Dec.* 20).—A most dreadful fire broke out in the extensive granaries of Messrs. Johnson, Carr, and Co., John Dewar, John Waugh, John Forster, and George Sligh, in Berwick. The fire originated from the kiln used for drying grain being overheated, and was discovered about six o'clock in the evening, but did not burst into a flame till near seven, when it raged with such fury, that, in a short time, the granaries (about 200 feet in length) were reduced to ashes. The whole of Bridge-street was at one time threatened with destruction, and several of the inhabitants there removed their furniture, &c., and the whole of Mr. Reid's valuable stock of books were taken out of the house for safety. The damage was estimated at £5,000. At twelve o'clock the fire bell was rung a second time, the flames having broke out in a hay loft belonging to William Bell, the Old Hen and Chickens inn. Had the wind blown as strong from the west as it did from the north-east, no exertions could have saved the whole of Bridge-street from being burnt down. No lives were lost. Few of the sufferers were insured.

December 29.—On repairing the north aisle of Alnwick church, Mr. Thomas Patterson discovered two stone statues about two feet below the surface. They are of exquisite workmanship and great antiquity. The largest is supposed to represent a king, and is painted as having a scarlet gown and crimson robe lined with ermine, an ermine tippet over the shoulders, and bound about the middle with a gilt strap. On the left side is a purse, and on the right a string of beads; in the left hand is a globe, in the right a sceptre, and at the feet are the royal arms. The other statue is supposed to represent a martyr; it is carved as being naked, except a piece of drapery about its middle. The legs, thighs, and body, are transfixes with nine arrows, and the hands and feet are bound in fetters. These statues were found without their heads. They are placed below the belfry at the west end of the church.

In the night of this day, the paper mill belonging to Mr. Lumley, at Butterby, near Durham, was blown down. The building extended across a valley, and was about 100 feet long, the upper part being constructed of wood and brick pillars, the lower floor of stone. The wind sweeping along the vale, and taking the building at its broadside, tore away the roof and the whole of the upper story, or drying rooms; nothing remained standing but the two gable ends and the walls of the lower rooms. The fall of the roof forced in the pillars of the drying rooms, breaking some massy beams, and involving in the general ruin a quantity of paper in an unfinished state, all the vats, and the various utensils used in the mill.

December 30.—In consequence of a rapid thaw, accompanied with wind and rain, there was a great flood in the river Tyne, which was supposed by many persons to have done nearly as much

injury, though it did not rise to so great a height, as the flood in 1771, which carried away the bridge at Newcastle. The water was at its greatest height about five o'clock on the morning of the above day (Saturday), when its appearance was particularly awful. Some idea of the force of the current may be formed from the circumstance of the Carlisle, London trader, which was lying alongside the quay at Newcastle, having torn up the cannon to which she was moored, and broken adrift. Another vessel also broke adrift from the Carlisle running foul of her, but both vessels were soon after brought up and secured. Most of the other vessels at the Quay were obliged, for security, to bring their anchors ashore and fasten them, up to the stems, in the pavement. The Quay and lower part of the Close were overflowed, and almost every cellar filled with water. The loss this way was very great, many of the cellars being full of sugars and other dry goods. A man named James Craig, and a spirited youth named John Hoggins, belonging to Newcastle, were unfortunately drowned, when humanely endeavouring to rescue Robert Lindsay and his two sons, the crew of a keel, which, about eleven o'clock on the Friday night, got fixed lengthways across the second arch from the north end of Newcastle bridge. When the cries of the keelmen had given alarm for their safety, the man and boy seized a small boat and went off to their assistance; they succeeded in rescuing the men from the keel, but, on their return, were swamped in a strong eddy. The others who were on board the boat, were saved by one means or other, but the man and boy were drowned. Great apprehensions were at one time entertained for the safety of the bridge of Newcastle, some of the arches being choaked up with keels and ice, and pieces of timber. Happily, however, the bridge stood firm. The two southern arches of the bridge at Haydon-bridge, were carried away at nine o'clock on the Friday night. In Shields harbour, some lives were lost by the upsetting of a boat, and upwards of thirty vessels drifted from their moorings, and were driven upon the Herd Sand. Several keels were also blown out to sea, with their crews, some of which were seen off Flamborough Head. The effects of the flood were severely felt by the farmers and others on both sides of the river, in the loss of horses, cows, sheep, pigs, &c. All the low grounds in the neighbourhood of Ponteland were overflowed, and many of the inhabitants were roused from their sleep by the water entering their beds. Considerable damage was done at Durham, Darlington, Sunderland, Hexham, &c. The wind corn mill of Mr. Heron, about half-a-mile to the westward of Sunderland, got amain, and taking fire, from the friction, was burnt to the ground. On the river Wear, the ships and keels were nearly all adrift, but were secured before they got to sea. Great damage was done by this storm on the banks of the rivers Tees and Wear.

1815.—This year, died, at Sunderland, Ann Appleby, aged 103 years.

1816 (*Jan. 3*).—Died, at the Low Felling, near Gateshead, Alice Blackett, aged 101 years.

1816 (*Jan*, 4).—Died, in Gateshead poor-house, where she had resided 50 years, Ann Carpenter, aged 110 years.

January 9.—Died, at his house, near the Windmill Hills, Gateshead, Mr. Thomas Thompson, merchant, in the 43d year of his age. His death was caused by cold and fatigue in his exertions to save his property (timber), from the ravages of the destructive flood in the preceding month. From an humble origin, he raised himself by his talents and merit to a respectable rank in society; his loss was severely felt in the extensive circle of his friends, as well as in the public festivals of the town, to the mirth of which his exquisitely humorous songs in the *pure* Newcastle dialect, contributed a large portion. Besides being the author of "*Canny Newcastle*," "*Jemmy Johnson's Whurrey*," "*New Keel Row*," and other descriptive local songs, Mr. Thompson wrote several pieces of considerable merit.

January 12.—Died, at the Windy-nook, Gateshead Fell, Mary Henderson, aged 100 years.

January 29.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Thomas Coulson, glass maker, aged 105 years.

This month, a stone coffin of the usual form was discovered about a foot below the surface, immediately without the east chancel walls of Boldon church, Durham. It had no lid or inscription.

A temporary bridge was this month finished across the river Tyne, at Haydon-bridge, for the accommodation of travellers.

January 3.—Died, in Milburn-gate, Durham, Mrs. Ann Smith, aged 100 years.

February 5.—Died, at East Brunton, in Northumberland, Mr. John Wallace, aged 103 years.

The beginning of this year, vigorous efforts were made to establish a branch custom-house at North Shields. This excited considerable interest both at that place and Newcastle, and deputations from which places, composed of respectable merchants and ship-owners, were sent to London for the purpose of conferring with his majesty's ministers on the expediency of the measure. The lord chancellor and Sir William Scott, natives of Newcastle, were decidedly against it. The lords of the treasury at length finally determined, that no branch of the custom-house at Newcastle should be established at Shields; but such masters of colliers, as might wish it, would in future be permitted to sign the coast bond at Shields. Newcastle was also highly indebted to Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., and Cuthbert Ellison, esq., members of parliament for that town, for their unremitted exertions on this occasion.

Another attempt was afterwards made by the shipowners of Shields to obtain the privilege of a distinct custom-house, but the lords of the treasury again decided against making any alteration in the mode of conducting the customary business of the port.

April 12.—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Mary Richardson, aged 100 years.

April 20.—Whole length portraits of the lord chancellor (Eldon), and Sir William Scott, judge of the admiralty court, were placed in the Guildhall, Newcastle, on each side of the por-

trait of Lord Collingwood, forming an illustrious trio, all natives of that town. The portraits are by Owen.

1816 (*April 23*).—The second centenary of the immortal bard, Shakespeare, was celebrated in Newcastle, by a grand dinner at the Queen's Head inn, which was attended by about 60 of the admirers of the poet of nature. William Loraine, esq., in the chair. Songs and glees were sung by the professional gentlemen present, and Mr. Stephen Kemble gave a long and able dissertation on the comparative merits of different poets. At the theatre the performance closed with a representation of Garrick's celebrated Jubilee at Stratford.

This month, an excellent portrait of the duke of Northumberland, painted by Phillips, and elegantly framed, was placed in the grand jury-room of the new courts of justice of the county of Northumberland, in Newcastle. The portrait was a present from his grace to the magistrates of the county, who had requested "that a picture (to be painted at their expense) of the munificent donor of £3000. towards the building of the courts, might adorn their walls." His grace very obligingly complied in sitting to the artist, but converted the finished production into an additional present to the county. This portrait was most exquisitely engraved by the late Mr. Thomas Fryer Ranson, a native of Newcastle.

May 10.—Died, at the Low Row, near Willington, Northumberland, Dorothy Phillips, aged 110 years.

May 14.—Died, at Bishop Auckland, Mrs. Jane Webster, aged 104 years.

May 31.—The Society of Arts presented a silver medal to William Reid Clanny, esq., M. D., of Bishopwearmouth, for his safety lamps for coal mines. This society the following year presented the Doctor with a gold medal, for a steam safety lamp.

This month, died in the county poor-house, in Gallowgate, Newcastle, John Moffatt, better known by the name of *Dummy*, never having had the faculty of speech. This eccentric character had been in the poor-house about 36 years, and was supposed, at the time of his death, to be near 80 years of age. He had two large excrescences under his chin, very much resembling the *goitres* of Switzerland. He was particularly fond of military *costume*, in which habiliments he was generally dressed, and his partiality for fiddling was indicated by imitating that performance with a stick across his arm. A whole length portrait of this harmless eccentric may be had of John Sykes.

June 3.—In the evening, Signor de Montfort, had an exhibition of fire works in the Spital-field, Newcastle, when the following melancholy occurrence took place:—Owing to the great strength of the wind at the time, the sparks from one of the large wheels fell on the stage, on which four rockets were lying; these were ignited by the sparks, and flying off in different directions, one of them unfortunately struck a youth of the name of John Price on the breast, when he almost immediately expired. The deceased was fifteen years of age. Some other persons were also hurt.

1816 (*June 15*).—A fire broke out in the dwelling-house of Mr. J. Miller, at Brinkburn colliery, near Morpeth, which, in a short time, destroyed the house, with a joiner's shop and stable, and a large quantity of wood. Miller's wife, with an infant only three days old in her arms, had to make her escape by the window, with other five children, all without clothing; two lodgers also lost every thing except what they had on.

June 18.—The first anniversary of the memorable victory of Waterloo, was observed in Newcastle, with every mark of public rejoicing. A royal salute was fired at noon and sunset from the guns on the castle, and many a merry peal was rung by the bells of the different churches during the day.

This day was observed by the gallant 33d regiment of foot, quartered in Sunderland barracks, as a high festival. On the morning, the regiment had a grand field day, when the men all wore a sprig of laurel in their caps, and fired several rounds in honour of the occasion. The officers in the latter part of the day gave an elegant dinner to many gentry in the town and neighbourhood. At night the garrison was illuminated, when various transparencies were displayed. The non-commissioned officers had a ball and refreshments in one of the barracks; and the men were also permitted to regale and enjoy themselves in commemoration of a day when their sufferings were so great, and when they contributed so much by their valour to the attainment of the glorious result.

June 30.—Died at Darlington, aged 53, Adam Yarker, better known by the name of *Blind Adam*, having been blind from his birth. He possessed a strong memory, which he particularly applied to the registering the number of deaths, &c., which occurred for upwards of forty years in Darlington. Without hesitating a moment, he could tell how many deaths had been in any given year or month, the exact day when the individual died, to whom they were related, &c. He was noted for keeping of poultry, in which he greatly excelled; his hens, owing to his superior management, laid their eggs in the winter season; he knew them from each other, and could tell the name, colour, &c., as soon as he got them in his hand. Although he was descended from poor parents, and had but a small pittance, called the blind's bounty, with the benevolence of a few charitable individuals, the profits arising from his poultry, &c., enabled him to realise £200.

July 1.—The foundation stone of a column erected by the tenantry of the late duke of Northumberland, to perpetuate his grace's munificence and numerous acts of kindness, was laid with great rejoicings. The procession moved from the White Swan inn, Alnwick, to the site of the column adjoining the road on the south entrance into that town. In a cavity were deposited the regimental roll, written on vellum, of the late Percy tenantry volunteers, hermetically closed in a glass tube, together with several medals. When the clergyman had concluded a prayer, the corn, wine, and oil, were poured upon the stone, and the company united in shouts of applause; after which the procession returned. The

bells of Newcastle and Gateshead announced to the public the laying the foundation stone, commencing to ring at 12 o'clock, and which was continued during the remainder of the day. The column was built on the plan of his grace's architect, the late David Stephenson, esq., of Newcastle.

1816 (*July 6*).—Some workmen employed at the quarry at Hetton, near the old Roman road, Northumberland, on removing the earth, discovered about four feet below the surface, an urn rudely carved and filled with black ashes, near it was a stone coffin about three feet four inches long, and two feet two inches in width, containing the remains of a body lying on the left side; the legs folded up behind the thighs. From the rough state of the coffin, no inscription or marks could be seen.

July 10.—About twelve o'clock at night, an alarming fire broke out in the upper part of a building in the Pudding Chare, Newcastle, occupied by Mr. Beeney, painter and glazier, as a varnishing room, and Mr. Lawson as a currier's work shop. The fire had arrived at a considerable height before it was discovered, and when the flames burst forth they threatened destruction, not only to the building in which it broke out, but also to the two dwelling-houses adjoining, and fronting to the Bigg-market. The firemen succeeded in getting the fire under by about two o'clock, without doing much further damage than destroying the upper stories of the building in which it broke out, together with the property contained therein. Mr. Beeney's loss was considerable, being unfortunately not insured. Mr. Richardson, the owner of the premises, and Mr. Lawson, were both insured.

August 5.—The ship *Flora*, of London, having just taken in a cargo of coals from Messrs. Nesham and Co's. staith at Sunderland, blew up with a terrible explosion, the deck beams being broken, and the decks completely torn up, with considerable other damage. This was occasioned by the inflammable state of the coal, and the air being entirely excluded from the hold.

August 17.—John Greig, for the murder of Elizabeth Stonehouse, of Monkwearmouth, was executed pursuant to his sentence, on a drop erected in front of the new county court house at Durham. After hanging the usual time, his body was cut down and given to his friends for interment. He was a stout good-looking man, thirty-seven years of age.

August 22.—About four o'clock on the morning, an alarming fire broke out in the premises of Mr. Coxon, of Milburn place, North Shields, pawn broker, which threatened destruction to the neighbourhood. Fortunately there was no wind, and by the timely aid of the engines, it was got under, but not until the whole internal part of the building, furniture, and pledged goods were consumed.

Same day, died at Sunderland, Margaret Archer, aged 110 years.

September 7.—James O'Neill, for robbing Mr. George Angus, carrier of Mickley, on the highway, on his return from the preceding October Cowhill fair, was executed pursuant to his sentence,

on the Town Moor, Newcastle. The body, after hanging the usual time, was cut down, and conveyed by the friends of the deceased to a public house near the gaol, where it was *waked*, and on the following day (Sunday) it was interred at St. Andrew's church; about thirty Irish people following it to the grave.

1816 (*Sept. 10*).—During a tremendous hurricane, the patent iron wands of the corn mill at Byker-hill, near Newcastle, were carried away for the third time in two years, and fell with a dreadful crash. In Newcastle many buildings were injured, and the large ash tree, which had for many generations stood in the west corner of the vicarage garden in Westgate-street, was blown down, to the great regret of the inhabitants. It was somewhat remarkable that this tree, which, for many years, had been frequented by rooks was this year deserted by them, a solitary pair only making their nest in it.

September 18.—Many of the tradesmen in Sunderland, injudiciously refused taking the shillings and sixpences that were plain, and without remains of the impression. In consequence of this, after dark, a large concourse of the poor inhabitants met and commenced an attack upon the shops of Messrs. Caleb Wilson, Natrass, Middlebrook, Walton, Andrews, Hall, &c., all grocers and flour dealers; the windows of both shops and houses were nearly demolished, and the shop of Middlebrook completely gutted by the mob, who were seen running away with hams, bacon, groceries, &c. After the shop had been forced open, the brave 33d regiment were called out, and on the riot act being read about midnight, they prepared to act hostily, when the mob in a great degree dispersed, but not before several soldiers received severe bruises from bricks, &c. The house of Mr. Barnes, surgeon, being at this time rebuilding, the mob took many hundred bricks for their destructive purposes; the town continued in great alarm and commotion for some time on this event.

September 21.—Died, at Chirton, near North Shields, Mr. William Elliot, aged 100 years.

September 30.—Died, at Old Walker, near Newcastle, Mrs. Jane Jowsey, aged 104 years. She possessed all her faculties until the time of her dissolution; she could sew, spin, knit, and read small print without the aid of spectacles.

September.—The view of that venerable ruin, the cathedral of St. Cuthbert, at Holy Island, was considerably improved by the wreck and rubbish of the fallen parts of the building being removed from the windows, which had for ages been blocked up; but most especially by the great western door of the church being opened out, which the sun had not shone upon for centuries past, the architecture of which is the true Saxon, highly ornamented with three columns on each side of the door. The amateurs of antiquities are indebted to Mr. Selby, of Swansfield, for this great improvement.

October 9.—A Roman gold coin of the emperor Galba, about 1400 years old, with a fine head quite perfect, was found in a field near Chester-le-street, by a young woman gathering potatoes; it

weighed about two-thirds of a guinea. It is now in the valuable collection of Robert Surtees, esq., of Mainsforth.

1816 (*Oct. 11*).—Witton castle and estate in the county of Durham, were sold by auction in the city of Durham, for the sum £78,000.

October 18.—A riot took place at Sunderland this day, (Friday) which is the market-day there. A farmer had been asking 16s. a bushel for his wheat, when a fellow standing by him forcibly seized the sack and ran off with it. This daring outrage was the signal for the whole of the corn being seized by the populace, and instantly the whole market became the scene of the utmost confusion and alarm. The shop-keepers shut in their windows, the magistrates appeared and read the riot act, and the military were ordered to be in readiness, but fortunately their services were not required. By the active exertions of about 60 special constables, the corn was nearly all recovered and tranquility restored.

November 22.—A tremendous fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mr. James Hewet, ship-chandler, in the Low-street of North Shields, which were totally consumed, and the adjoining premises considerably injured.

November 29.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Mrs. Elizabeth Broderick, aged 104 years.

December 13.—The grand duke Nicholas, of Russia, and his suite arrived at Sunderland; and the morning following, attended by the Rev. Dr. Gray, minutely inspected the pier, the iron bridge, the coal staith of Messrs. Nesham and Co., and afterwards took refreshment at Bishopwearmouth rectory-house. They then set out for Newcastle, when almost immediately after their arrival, his imperial highness proceeded to the Royal Jubilee School, where he was met by the Rev. William Turner, one of the secretaries. Though Saturday is not a regular school-day, yet at the request of Dr. Hamel, who had arrived the day before, Mr. Drury, the master of the School, had assembled all the boys, to the number of nearly 500. This being the first Lancastrian school which his highness had seen, he appeared, even on his entrance to be powerfully interested, and afterwards attentively examined all their performances. Before leaving the school, he inscribed with his own hand in the visitors' book, his name in the Russ character, to remain as a testimonial of his visit. From the school the prince proceeded to Wallsend colliery, where Mr. Buddle explained the whole process of ventilating and working the mines and the shipping of coal. Mr. Bewick had afterwards the honour of laying before the grand duke specimens of his skill in the art of engraving upon wood, which were closely examined, and much approved of by his highness. On Sunday morning, the right worshipful the mayor, Sir Thomas Burdon, knt., paid his respects to his imperial highness, to tender him the honours and hospitality of Newcastle. His highness regretted that want of time did not allow him to accept the invitation, and indeed he almost immediately set off for Alnwick castle, and thence to Berwick, where he passed the night. His suite consisted of the

following persons:—Baron Nicholay, Sir William Congreve, Koutousof, Dr. Chrichton, General Saurassoff, M. Klinker, M. Marsell, and M. Parosky.

1816.—This year the freedom of Berwick was voted to Admiral Lord Exmouth, and to Admiral Sir David Milne, for highly distinguished and meritorious services at Algiers. His lordship replied by a letter of thanks, stating that this was the first compliment that he had received since his arrival in England from Algiers.

1817 (*Jan.* 13).—Died, at Shincliff, near Durham, Mr. John Lamb, farmer, aged 100 years. It was the anniversary of his birth day.

January 30.—Eighteen waggons belonging to the artillery arrived in Newcastle on their way to Scotland, under a military escort. They were laden with the new silver coin to the amount, in weight, of twenty-four tons.

February 12.—The valuable and extensive woollen-manufactory of Messrs. Edward and Joseph Pease, of Darlington, was consumed by fire.

February 13.—The new silver coin was delivered from the Mint Office, in the Close, to the public in Newcastle, in exchange for the old standard coin of the realm, however defaced or reduced in weight by use.

This month, there were found in the ancient manor of Ulchester, Northumberland, nearly 1000 silver coins, which appeared to be pennies of the reigns of Stephen and Henry II.

March.—Died, in the poor house of St. Nicholas', Durham, William Williamson, aged 100 years.

April 8.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Isabella Thompson, widow, aged 100 years.

April 14.—Martha Wilson was found suspended from a nail in the wall of her apartment in the Trinity-house, Newcastle. After a careful examination of witnesses before the coroner and jury, a verdict of *felo de se* was found, and in consequence her body was interred in the public highway a little east of the toll-gate, and in front of the buildings which have since been named Ridley Villas.

April 20.—Died, in the house of correction at Durham, where he had been kept nearly 46 years, a man usually called *Dicky*, a lunatic, whose real name could never be made out, but which was supposed to have been Richard Williamson. This extraordinary man was first discovered in 1771, in a complete state of nudity, in an out-building, in the fields near Newton-hall, then the seat of Thomas Liddell, esq., who allowed him 1s. a-week towards his maintenance, and which was continued by his successors, and, with the allowance from the county, and the kind attention of the governors of the house, rendered his life comfortable. It was generally conjectured, that he had been a lunatic confined in some receptacle, whence he had escaped. He was never able either to tell his name, or give the smallest account of himself, nor could any discovery ever be made where he came from, or to whom he belonged, though, from his dialect, he seemed to have come from the south. He was perfectly harmless, and appeared to have had

a good education, from his being able to repeat many parts of the service of the church, particularly the morning service, which he frequently did with great propriety. He was supposed, at the time of his death, to be about 80 years of age.

1817 (*April 20*).—Died, at Plessey, Northumberland, Margaret Stafford, aged 106 years.

April 28.—Died, at the Westgate, Newcastle, Mrs. Ann Tindal, aged 100 years.

April 29.—The marriage of Earl Percy, at Northumberland-house, Strand, London, to Lady Charlotte Florentia Clive, youngest daughter of the Earl of Powis, was celebrated at Alnwick, by the ringing of bells, the firing of guns, and an ox roasted in the Market-place; it was cut up by Mr. George Lindsay, butcher, on a scaffold erected for the purpose, and distributed amongst the populace, together with a proportionate quantity of bread and ale. The whole was conducted with the greatest harmony.

April 29.—The foundation stone of a new Independent Meeting-house was laid with much ceremony, in Villiers-street, Sunderland, by the Rev. Mr. Parsons, of Leeds.

This month, died at Hexham, Mr. John Bewick, aged 101 years.

May 18.—Died, at South Shields, Mrs. Margaret Cundell, widow, aged 100 years.

This month, died at Rig End, near Falstone, Mrs. Heron, widow, aged 104 years.

June 1.—Died, at St. Anthony's, near Newcastle, Sarah Forster, aged 109 years.

June 3.—Died, at the High Felling, near Gateshead, John Mac-lay, aged 101 years.

June 8.—Died, at Hexham, Elizabeth Carns, aged 102 years.

June 12.—Died, in the gaol of Newgate, Newcastle, where he had been confined several years, Mr. William Richardson, formerly an eminent corn-merchant in that town. Mr. R. possessed considerable talents, and various were his satiric effusions, the chief of which is "*The Newcastle Attorneys*," which was privately circulated, and of course has become exceedingly scarce. His widow placed a very *singular epitaph* over his remains, in Heworth chapel-yard, which has since been much mutilated.

June 23.—The corporation of Newcastle commenced building twenty additional rooms to the Peace and Unity Hospital, at the Westgate, for aged freemen and their widows.

June 26.—Died, at Birtley, Durham, Ralph Gofton, in the 102d year of his age.

June 30.—About eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the carburetted hydrogen gas in the Row Pit, at Harraton Colliery, on the river Wear, unfortunately ignited, when thirty-eight men and boys lost their lives. It was one of the most violent explosions which had happened for years; corves, trams, and several utensils used at the bottom of the shaft (82 fathoms in depth) being blown into the air, together with the bodies of two of the unfortunate workmen, one with the head off, and the other cut in two in the middle.

All the sufferers, except one from Fatfield, belonged to New Painsher, and were buried there on Wednesday, July 2d. Amongst them were ten belonging to one family, of the name of Hills, viz. the grandfather, his two sons, and seven grandsons. This dreadful accident was caused entirely by the perverse obstinacy of a young man, named John Moody, one of the hewers, who, in defiance of the orders of the overman, refused to use Sir H. Davy's lamp, and lighted a candle, which was twice put out by the workmen whom he was to relieve, but he re-lighted it by unscrewing the lamp, and thus sacrificed his own life, and the lives of his companions. But the painful narrative does not close here: on Wednesday afternoon, some of the workmen went into the Nova Scotia Pit, of the same colliery, to repair some part of the pit which had been injured by the explosion of the Row Pit, and not returning in time, another party of the men went down to seek them, but were obliged to return without effecting their object, being unable to proceed on account of the great quantity of choke damp which had entered the workings, supposed from the Row Pit subsequent to the explosion. The eight workmen who had first gone down were obliged, therefore, to be left to their fate. Their bodies were got out on the following day, six of whom were quite dead; two were still alive, with little hopes of recovery. This is the explosion alluded to by Mr. Buddle, at page 49, folio, and page 10, octavo editions of the "*Report of the Evidence taken in 1829 on the State of the Coal Trade of the United Kingdoms.*" The octavo edition was published by John Sykes.

1817 (*June*).—This month, the foundation stone of a Roman Catholic chapel was laid in Bedford-street, North Shields, adjoining the turnpike road from Tynemouth to Newcastle. June 14th, 1821, this elegant Gothic edifice was opened with great solemnity by the Right Rev. Thomas Smith, bishop of Bolina, and vicar apostolic of the northern district, assisted by a number of Catholic clergymen. An excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Thomas Gillow, to a crowded audience, who had been admitted by ticket, exhibiting a cross and the rising sun. Mr. Gillow who still presides over this chapel, is a highly respected clergyman.—*See Aug. 22d. 1830.*

July 4.—A blast took place on board the Fly, Brown, of Ely, which had just been laden with coals at Mr. Brandling's staith, on the river Tyne. The hatches were fastened down about eight o'clock at night, and about half-past eleven, the master having been writing in his cabin, the inflammable gas from the coal having found its way from the hold, ignited at his candle as he was going to bed, and exploded. The master was seriously scorched; his bed curtains were set on fire; the hatches were burst open, and a boat which was upon them thrown off. Two planks on the deck were blown up. The other men on board were in bed and received no hurt, except the mate who was thrown out of bed, and his toes a little burnt, and his whiskers singed off. The cat also lost her whiskers, and was much singed. These accidents are occasioned by immediately fastening down the hatches upon a cargo of

fresh coals, which emit the gas for some time after they are raised from the mine.

1817 (*July 10*).—Died, at Northumberland House, London, the most noble Hugh Percy, duke of Northumberland, unrivalled for goodness of heart, friendship, munificence, and princely protection. For 53 years he adorned the military profession both at home and abroad; and as a statesman, tempered the love of his sovereign with the love of the just rights of the people. He was the father of his tenantry, who gratefully perpetuated his memory by a stately column. During the late war, the Percy Tenantry volunteer artillery, cavalry, and riflemen, were clothed, paid, and in every respect maintained in arms, at the sole expense of this patriotic nobleman. His grace's titles and offices were, Hugh Percy, duke of Northumberland, Earl Percy, Baron Warkworth, of Warkworth Castle, Baron Percy, Lucy, Poynings, Fitzpayne, Bryan, and Latimer, a baronet, a general in the army, knight of the garter, lord lieutenant and vice-admiral of Northumberland and Newcastle upon Tyne, and constable of Launceston Castle, F. R. S. and F. S. A. His grace was in the 75th year of his age. The following month, on account of his grace's death, eleven elegant banners, coat of mail, sword and shield, &c., were placed in Alnwick church.

July 14.—Died, near Wolviston, Durham, Mrs. Mary Stephenson, widow, aged 104 years. Her mother died at the age of 108; a sister at 107, another sister at 105, and a brother at the age of 97 years.

July 18.—Died, in St. Andrew's poor-house, Newcastle, Anne Moulter, aged 102 years.

July 19.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Thomas Morrison, aged 102 years.

July 25.—Died, at Hartley, in her 106th year, Mrs. Margaret Lowery, who enjoyed excellent health till within a few hours of her death, with faculties unimpaired. About twenty years before, she was nearly blind, but she recovered her eye-sight, which remained strong and clear to the last.

August 14.—Died, at Darlington, Isabella Burnsides, aged 104 years.

September 25.—An explosion took place in Jarrow colliery, by which unfortunate event six men lost their lives.

October 11.—The committee of the coal trade of the rivers Tyne and Wear, and the several subscribers to the superb service of plate, which had been for some time preparing as a tribute of gratitude to Sir Humphry Davy, for his invaluable discovery of the safety lamp, with several of their friends, assembled at the Queen's Head inn, to partake of a dinner given to that distinguished philosopher on the presentation of the plate. John George Lambton, esq., M. P., for the county of Durham, was called to the chair. About sixty gentlemen sat down to dinner, which was of the most sumptuous kind. The meeting broke up about eleven o'clock. May 29th, 1829, Sir Humphry Davy died at Geneva, where he had arrived the day before, of an attack of apoplexy.

1817 (*Oct. 15*).—An immense whale was found at sea, by the fishermen belonging to North Sunderland, when, after great exertion, they succeeded in towing it ashore, at North Sunderland pier, where it lay some time for the inspection of the curious.

November 3.—An explosion took place in Ouston colliery, near Chester-le-street, by which a man named John Turnbull lost his life, and three others were severely burnt.

November 8.—On the receipt of the intelligence in Newcastle, of the death of the Princess Charlotte, the great bell of St. Nicholas, and the bells of all the other churches tolled heavily for an hour, and the flag of the castle was displayed half staff high; many of the ships in the harbour made a similar mournful display. At Durham, the bells of St. Nicholas' church rung a mourning peal, and the great bell of the cathedral was also tolled for a considerable time. At North and South Shields the bells of the churches rung muffled peals, and the ships displayed their mourning. The flags on Clifford's-fort and Tynemouth castle, were also hoisted in mourning. November 19th being the day when the mortal remains of this most beloved princess were to be consigned to the cold and silent tomb, it was observed in Newcastle with every mark of solemnity and sorrow. At sun rise, on the signal of a gun from the castle, a muffled peal was slowly rung on the bells of St. Nicholas, and the other churches, and the flags of the castle and the ships in the harbour were hoisted half mast high. All the shops were closed, and business of every kind suspended. Divine service was performed at the several churches in the morning, and was most numerously attended. The mayor and corporation passed in slow procession to St. Nicholas' church, where also the several lodges of free masons in that town and Gateshead assembled, properly attired in black, with hatbands and white gloves, to join in the mournful service of the day; the church was exceedingly crowded. The pulpit, reading desks, &c., were all hung with black cloth. After service, the church bells tolled heavily for a considerable time, and at sun set, another mournful peal closed the sad observance of the day. At Gateshead church, there was also service in the evening, when an affecting sermon was preached by the Rev. Christopher Benson, of Newcastle. This mournful event was similarly observed at all the other towns. She died Nov. 6th, 1817.

November.—Died, at Matfen, in Northumberland, John Armstrong, game-keeper to Sir Edward Blackett, bart., in his 101st year. He retained all his faculties to the last.

December 3.—The awful sentence of the law was carried into execution against Charles Smith, for the wilful murder of Charles Stuart. About ten o'clock the procession moved from the gaol to the gallows, which was erected on the town-moor, Newcastle, a little north of the barracks, on the opposite side of the road. When arrived at the gallows, he, in a firm and impressive manner, addressed the spectators at some length, denying his having shed the blood of Stuart, and stating that he forgave all who had appeared against him. After joining in prayer with the Roman

Catholic clergyman (Rev. Mr. Worswick), he was launched into eternity. His body was afterwards taken to the Surgeons' Hall for dissection. He had been respited from the 18th August.

1817 (*Dec.* 14).—Died, at Hexham, Mrs. Margaret Davison, aged 102 years.

December 18.—An explosion of inflammable air took place in the Plain Pit at Rainton colliery, when twenty-seven persons (eleven men and sixteen boys) lost their lives; the accident took place a short time before all the workmen had descended to their work; had it occurred a little time later, there would have been upwards of 160 men and boys in the pit, most of whom, it is probable would have perished.

This year, Mr. Grey, of Millfield Hill, found near the traces of an ancient encampment, a short distance from Flodden Hill, a tumulus, which, on removing, exhibited a very singular sepulchre. In the centre a large urn was found, but in a thousand pieces. It had either been broken to pieces by the stones falling upon it when digging, or had gone to pieces on the admission of the air. This urn was surrounded by a number of cells formed of flat stones in the shape of graves, but too small to hold the body in its natural state. These sepulchral recesses contained nothing except ashes, or dust of the same kind as that in the urn.

This year, Gilesgate moor, Durham (270 acres) was divided. The marquis and marchioness of Londonderry, had one sixteenth allotted as lord and lady of the manor, and reserved the mines.

This year, died at Rushyford, Durham, Mrs. Mary Young, aged 101 years.

1818 (*Jan.* 10).—A savings' bank was opened at Newcastle, and upwards of £300 paid in by between 60 and 70 depositors.

In the evening of the same day, a partial lighting of the gas lights took place in such of the shops in Newcastle as had completed their arrangements. The lamps in Mosley-street were not lighted till the 13th (Tuesday evening), when a great crowd witnessed their first lighting up, and a loud cheer was given by the boys, as the flame was applied to each burner.

January 12.—A numerous and most respectable party of gentlemen dined together at the Assembly Rooms, in Newcastle, (Charles John Brandling, esq., of Gosforth, in the chair), on the occasion of presenting a piece of plate (a tankard of large dimensions) to Mr. George Stephenson, for the service rendered to science and humanity by the invention of his safety lamp. This, added to a former donation of the coal trade at large, amounted to nearly £1,000.

February 8.—Died, in the workhouse at Bishop Auckland, Hannah Robinson, aged 103 years.

February 12.—Died, at Haggerstone, in Northumberland, Thomas Ewart, aged 101 years.

February 14.—Died, at Sunderland, Mrs. Mary Usher, aged 101 years.

February 15.—The chapel of St. Andrew's, at North Shields,

was first opened for service, by the Rev. John Wilson, A. M., after the solemn Presbyterian form of Scotland. The foundation stone of this chapel was laid in June 1817.

1818. (*Feb.* 18).—Died, at North Shields, Jane Macdonald, aged 101 years.

February 21.—Died, in Sunderland Old Road, in the chapelry of Heworth, at three o'clock on the morning, Hannah, aged 100 years, wife of James Bell, and at nine the same morning, James Bell, her husband, aged 103 years. He had been indisposed for some time; and a few days previous to his dissolution, his wife observed to him, that he would not live long, but that she would go before him, which she did as above stated; without any previous illness she complained of being sick, and expired. Their youngest daughter, aged 68, attended them during their last moments.

March 10.—When the workmen were digging the foundation of a circular addition to the north side of the church at Bedlington, they discovered three monumental stones, on which were cut out a sword, the cross of which was decorated with ribbons, and human figures. On one stone was inscribed, "*Ora pro nobis.*" The bones of a human being were also found close to the buttress of the steeple. They were supposed to be the remains of Cuthbert Watson, a noted somnambulist. On February 14th, 1669, he rose in his sleep, and, wandering to the church, climbed up the buttress on the north side of the steeple. A person passing at the time, being alarmed for his safety, called to poor Watson, who awoke, fell, and was killed on the spot. This story is verified by tradition, the parish register, and the date cut upon the buttress, called "*Watson's Wake.*"

March 24.—Died, in the Keelmen's hospital, Newcastle, Ann Hamilton, aged 100 years.

Same day, a large floating dock, belonging to Mr. Farrington, ship-builder, was launched from his yard at Sandgate Shore, Newcastle, in the presence of many hundreds of spectators.

March 27.—A grand masonic procession took place from Mr. Smith's the Anchor inn, at Wooler, which was met by a deputation of the trustees, elders, and others of the congregation of Protestant Dissenters of the West chapel, the Rev. Mr. Mitchell, minister, and proceeded to the site fixed upon for a new meeting-house, where the foundation stone was laid by Mr. Richard Jobson. Under the stone were deposited in a sealed bottle, various coins of George III., and a roll of parchment containing a list of the presiding officers of the society and the lodges, after which, an appropriate oration was delivered by brother Joseph Armstrong.

In the spring of this year a part of the south wall of Barnard castle fell. It battered in the roof of a house, and a man at work in a saw pit below was providentially preserved by a tree falling across it.

April 15.—At the anniversary meeting of the Royal Humane Society, holden at the London tavern, his royal highness the duke of Sussex, president of the society, delivered the honorary

medallion to John Davison, esq., of Bishopwearmouth, for his invention of the improved Sunderland life-boat. His royal highness in addressing Mr. Davison, observed the society had been highly pleased with the life-boat, the principle of which his royal highness explained to the numerous party assembled. He also stated that the society were much gratified by Mr. D's being present to receive the medal in person, and he further observed as one of the royal family, they were deeply interested in every invention that tended to preserve the lives of his majesty's subjects, and condescendingly added, in presenting the medal to Mr. Davison, that he had well deserved it.

1818 (*May 2*).—A fire broke out in the Hartford, London trader, Captain James Otway, belonging to Mr. Robson, wharfin-ger, of Newcastle. She was lying near the cinder kilns, on the south side of the Tyne; and about one o'clock on the morning, the alarm of fire was given by the mate and his wife, who, with a boy, were the only persons on board. Two engines from neighbouring glass-houses were not long in arriving at the place, and about four o'clock, one of the engines from the Newcastle fire office, proceeded down the river in a wherry. Every exertion was made to prevent the progress of the fire. The vessel was scuttled, but being in shallow water, she of course sunk very little. At one time the flames issued through the sky light, set fire to the trysail, and would certainly have destroyed all the rigging, had not a man instantly cut away the lanyards on one side of the vessel, which caused the mainmast to fall overboard. Notwithstanding these efforts, the fire continued to rage in the cabin, (where it originated) and the after part of the hold till six o'clock, and consequently did considerable damage to the vessel, as well as destroying every thing on board belonging to the captain and the crew; fortunately no goods were on board. A new cable was found lying coiled, apparently as perfect as when first laid into the vessel, but upon being touched, fell into dust. William Lamb, who was employed at the Tyne Glass-house, unfortunately fell down the hatchway; it was not long before he was brought up with a hook, but life had fled; he left a widow and five children, for whom a subscription was set on foot.

May 11.—Died, in Northumberland Square, North Shields, Mr. Robert Wilkinson, librarian to the Public Subscription Library. Howard-street, aged 48 years. He was well skilled in the mathematics, as many of his productions in the Diaries and other publications, will testify. His calculations, often made without putting pen to paper, were very astonishing. He was also a poet of no mean celebrity. In short, in him were combined some of the rarest qualities of the human mind. Mr. Wilkinson was a native of Northumberland.

May 30.—Died, at his house in Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square, London, in the 54th year of his age, William Burdon, esq. of Hartford-house, in Northumberland, a gentleman of great literary attainments. Mr. Burdon was a native of Newcastle, and

educated at the Free Grammar-school there, from whence he was sent to Emanuel college, Cambridge, where he obtained a fellowship. Mr. Burdon was designed for the church, but on reading the early history of Christianity, he came to the conclusion of not entering into priest's orders, and he resigned his fellowship in 1796. After his retirement from the university, a number of curious and valuable works proceeded from his fertile pen. His publications were—" *Three Letters addressed to the Bishop of Llandaff. Cambridge, 1795,*" "*Life and Character of Buonaparte,*" "*Examination of the Pursuits of Literature,*" "*Materials for Thinking,*" 2 vols. 8vo., "*Letters on the Affairs of Spain,*" "*Thoughts on Politics, Morality, and Literature,*" "*A Vindication of Pope and Grattan,*" "*Treatise on the Privileges of the House of Commons,*" and several miscellaneous essays and papers in the periodical publications of the day. For some years, a small swelling had affected his thigh; this increasing, and occasioning an intense and unremitting pain, he removed to London in 1817, for the purpose of an operation; the consequence was, that the thigh was amputated close to the trunk of the body. In two months he was able to take an airing in his carriage, although he was never free from pain. About the middle of May he gradually relapsed, and found great difficulty in breathing, attended with spasms, and expired as above stated.

1818 (*June 2*).—The Society of Arts presented the silver medal and ten guineas to Mr. John Common, of Denwick, near Alnwick, for his invention of a double-drill turnip sower. He was also presented with thirty guineas from the Highland Society for this invention. The following curious account of this *un*-Common family may be interesting:—Mr. Common's family have been remarkable for stature, strength, longevity, and cleverness. His great-grandfather, Thomas, lived until he was above 110 years of age. Some time before his death, which happened at Dunsheugh, he got a new set of teeth. He left seven sons: one of them, named Andrew, measured 27 inches across the shoulders; and frequently went to Alnwick market from Thrunton, with a stick over his shoulder, to which a boll of peas was suspended. Robert, another son, seized two men who were assaulting his master at Warkworth Barns, and, carrying one of them under each arm, ran and threw them both into the Coquet. Being present when a party of men were trying their strength by throwing an axe towards a house at High Buston, he joined in the sport; but instead of throwing it *towards* the house, he threw it over it. There was another son, named Matthew, possessed of uncommon strength. At one time he leaped forwards and backwards over a yoke of oxen in Alnwick streets. Thomas, the youngest, Mr. Common's grandfather, was the least, yet he weighed fourteen stones. He had two sons, Thomas, and Robert Mr. Common's father. They were both ingenious mechanics and noted pugilists. Thomas excelled in the erection of windmills and steam-engines; and Robert, in making winnowing machines on an economical plan. He made some improvements in the construction of ploughs, and invented the bonnet maker's mangle. He also

performed well on the bagpipes and violin, both of which instruments he made himself. When a boy, he was severely corrected by his father, for standing upon his head on the steeple of Shilbottle church. His eldest son, Thomas, is now an eminent millwright at Quebec. William, another son, carries on the same business in Buston, his native place. He possesses a portion of the nerve and agility of his forefathers, as he can leap through a hoop, two feet in diameter, while a tall man holds it above his head. His brother, Mr. John Common, (from whom these particulars were obtained,) when a youth, stood upon his head on the highest tower of Warkworth castle. He performed the same feat on the edge of the grate of Brislee tower, and on the stern-piece of a boat while agitated on the water. He has also laid his hands on a board the height of his chin, sprung up, and rested upon his head. He has likewise walked upon his elbows on level ground, and upon his hands on the battlement of Warkworth bridge, and the highest part of Eshott-hall! About the time that King James I. mounted the English throne, one of this wonderful family farmed the Free-stone Barn, near Whittingham, and tradition records how boldly he fought with a party of moss-troopers who had stolen his cattle. John, the brother of Mr. Common's great-grandfather before mentioned, lived until he was 115 years old; and Peter, another brother, until he exceeded his 132d year. He died at Rugly, about ninety years ago. This patriarch was casting flags on Hazon Moor, when a Mr. Lisle rode up, and demanded to know by whose authority he worked there? "I have cast flags here by times," said Peter, "above a hundred years, and no man ever asked me the question before." "Cast on while you live," replied the gentleman, throwing him half-a-crown; "I will never forbid you."—John, while serving at Titlington, was seized by a party of soldiers, whom his master, in a joke, had sent to take him; but he defended himself so resolutely with the spade, that the poor fellows were glad to effect their escape. His eye-sight remained unimpaired to the last; so that a few days before he died, while lying in bed, he could read a printed paper that was pasted up at some distance upon the wall of his room. He was buried at Warkworth.

1818 (*July 18*).—A tremendous fall of rain, called by the country people a water-spout, fell upon Davyshield Common, and caused the rivulet which passes Otterburn to overflow its banks, carrying away potatoes, turnips, corn, &c. The rise was so rapid that most of the inhabitants of the village of Otterburn were compelled to quit their houses for safety: the women and children were carried off upon the men's shoulders. In a few minutes all was confusion and desolation. Scarcely an inhabitant of the village west of the bridge, but was a sufferer more or less. The scene was truly awful—swine, hay, dunghills covered with poultry, and various utensils of husbandry, all driven off by the flood.

July 28.—A new burial-ground which had been added to the church-yard at Sunderland, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Oxford.

1818 (*July 28*).—Died, at the pin-manufactory, Durham, Mrs. Catherine Richardby, aged 102 years.

July 30.—The additional cemetery adjoining St. Andrew's church-yard, in Newcastle, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Oxford, amidst an immense concourse of spectators.

July 31.—His imperial highness the grand duke Michael, brother to the emperor of Russia, accompanied by his suite, arrived at the Bridge inn, Sunderland. They were soon after waited upon by the Rev. Dr. Gray, whom they accompanied to the rectory, where they took refreshment. They afterwards inspected the iron bridge, patent ropery, barracks, exchange, &c., and took an excursion up the river Wear in a boat. During the time of the grand duke's visit at Sunderland, a guard of honour was placed at his door. Next morning, his imperial highness and suite left Sunderland for Newcastle. They soon after paid a visit to the Royal Jubilee school, where they were received by the committee and the master,—the boys, who had broken up for the harvest holidays the day before, having been expressly assembled. After staying here a short while, the party paid a visit to the low glass-houses and Heaton colliery. Next morning they left Newcastle for Alnwick castle, where they were engaged to dine with the duke of Northumberland. On their arrival, his highness was received on the steps of the principal entrance by their graces the duke and duchess of Northumberland, and immediately upon his alighting, the band struck up "*God save the King*," and a salute of 21 guns was fired.

This month, a large painting (seventeen by seven feet), by Tintoretto, of our Saviour washing the apostles' feet, presented to St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, by Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., was placed at his expense above the altar-table, the church having undergone a thorough repair and cleaning.

August 1.—The lord bishop of Oxford consecrated a piece of ground which was added to the cemetery of Berwick church.

August 4.—The mayor and corporation of Newcastle, attended by the proper officers, waited upon the duke of Northumberland (whilst on a visit to Newcastle), and presented to him the freedom of that town, which they had previously voted to him. After the presentation of the freedom, the bells of St. Nicholas' church struck up a merry peal, and a salute was fired from the guns on the castle.

August 5.—An explosion of inflammable air took place in Wall's End colliery, by which four men lost their lives. This is the only explosion that has been known to have happened at the Davy lamp. It occurred as follows :—Two men and two boys were working in an explosive mixture. One of the men extinguished his *Davy* in trimming it, and sent one of the boys to the "stationary" light, in a safe part of the mine, to get it re-lighted. The boy returning with it in haste, fell when near to the man to whom he was carrying it, and falling with the lamp upon the corner of a cast-iron tram-plate, burst a hole in the wire gauze cylinder of the lamp, and the explosion instantly took place. The man survived

a few hours, and told Mr. Buddle the circumstance, who *took up* the *Davy* on the spot where the boy was killed, and found it in the state described.



WARK CHURCH.

1818 (*August 8, 9, 10*).—The lord bishop of Oxford, as the representative of the late venerable prelate (Barrington) of the diocese, consecrated the three new churches and cemeteries for the new parishes of Thorneyburn, Greystead, and Wark, which had been erected within the extensive parish and rectory of Simonburn, in Northumberland, which became, on the death of the Rev. Dr. Scott,* the former incumbent, separated into six distinct rectories and parishes, viz.—Simonburn, Wark, Bellingham, Thorneyburn, Falstone, and Greystead. On the 11th, his lordship also consecrated the new chapel and cemetery at Humshaugh, as a chapel of ease and additional cemetery to the parish of Simonburn. The above new churches and chapel were built by the commissioners and governors of Greenwich hospital, who are the patrons of Simonburn, and of the several above new rectories and parishes. After the conclusion of the consecration of Thorneyburn church and cemetery, his lordship proceeded to Falstone, where he consecrated the ground for the additional cemetery to Falstone churchyard.

August.—M. Cottu, the French judge who tried Sir Robert Wilson, and Messrs. Bruce and Hutchinson, for aiding the escape of Lavalette, attended on the northern circuit, being sent by the French government to observe and report the British mode of administering justice, particularly as regarded the rules of evidence and reception of proofs. The French judge appeared to be very attentive to the proceedings.

September 24.—About four o'clock in the afternoon, an alarming fire broke out in Hexham Abbey, the seat of T. W. Beaumont, esq., M. P. for Northumberland. The building was in the form of

* See December 10th, 1814, page 86.

a quadrangle, the whole of the south and west sides of which, and part also of the north side, were entirely consumed. About seven o'clock, the roofs fell in with a tremendous crash. About eight o'clock, an express arrived in Newcastle, requesting the assistance of the engines belonging to the Newcastle Fire-office, which were consequently dispatched with the greatest expedition. The engines arrived at Hexham between one and two o'clock, when the ruins were still in flames, but a plentiful supply of water being at hand, the engines were immediately set to work, and soon succeeded in extinguishing them. The damage was said to be about £10,000. There was little wind at the time, and it fortunately was from the south-east, to which providential circumstance was attributed the preservation of the venerable church, which is close adjoining to the east side of the Abbey.

1818 (*Oct. 11*).—As Joseph Madelen, a miner, employed in South Moor colliery, in the county of Durham, was hewing at a solid stratum of coal, about six feet in thickness, and thirteen fathoms from the surface of the earth, he found a frog enclosed in the solid mass, which, immediately on being liberated, began to exercise the functions of animal life. The recess in the coal in which it was found, was exactly fitted to its body, and had apparently no communication whatever with the surface of the block. The animal was exactly the colour of the coal, but on being put into a vessel of water, its sooty covering disappeared, and it appeared speckled like the rest of its species.

October 30.—The workmen of Collingwood Main colliery, in cutting through part of the lands at Chirton, near North Shields, for a water level, came to the remains of a human body, enclosed in flag-stones set upon their edges, about four feet below the surface, and covered over by others of a similar description. Only a skull and two or three mutilated bones were found, which, on being exposed to the air, crumbled into dust; the bottom of the inclosure contained nothing else, except some white sand.

This month, died at Hatherwick, in Northumberland, Mrs. Potts, in the 104th year of her age.

November 3.—His imperial highness the archduke Maximilian, cousin to the emperor of Russia, with his suite, on their tour to the north, honoured North Shields and Tynemouth with their presence. Accompanied by Nicholas Fairless, esq., and other gentlemen, he visited the ancient priory and fortifications of Tynemouth, the North Shields Subscription Library, and the various manufactories, and expressed himself highly gratified, particularly with Mr. Flinn's improved harpoon guns, whale lances, and other instruments used in the Greenland fishery. The same evening, his imperial highness and suite arrived at the Queen's Head inn, Newcastle, and on the following day visited several of the collieries on the north side of the Tyne, below the bridge, attended by William Clark, esq. of Benton, and Captain Morgan. They also examined St. Nicholas' church, and other objects of curiosity in that town. On the 5th, they left Newcastle for Alnwick castle, on their way to Scotland.

1818 (*Nov.* 10).—On the morning, John and Lancelot Young—husband, brothers, and very respectable farmers at Heckley Grange, near Alnwick, the one about 70 years of age and the other 60, left their house between the hours of nine and ten o'clock; when one of them went to give instructions to a boy ploughing in the field, the other brother approached, and asked, “Are you ready?” Being answered in the affirmative, they left the field together. Their long absence from home created alarm, and servants were sent to search for them, when they were discovered within a few yards of each other, each having his throat cut, and a razor near his body. A watch was also found beside one of them, from which it was inferred that they had resolved to die at the same moment. A jury held an inquest, and after several adjournments, returned a verdict of *Felo de se*. The farming stock and utensils were then valued, and the bodies were buried at midnight, in cross roads near the church. This not being considered a sufficient compliance with the terms of the statute, an order was given by the magistrates to the churchwardens, that the sentence of the law should be carried strictly into execution. The bodies were accordingly taken up, and buried again, amidst a great concourse of people, in a highway near Hinding-lane, not far from the spot where they committed the fatal act.

November 16.—A numerous and respectable meeting of the inhabitants of Bishopwearmouth and Sunderland, and their vicinities, was holden at the Exchange Buildings, Sunderland, (the Rev. Dr. Gray in the chair) to consider of the expediency of establishing an Infirmary at Sunderland. January 10th, 1822, the foundation stone was laid by the right honourable Lord Stewart, now marquis of Londonderry.

November 28.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, in his 45th year, George Wilson Meadley, esq. Mr. Meadley wrote “*Memoirs of Dr. Paley*,” 8vo.; he was also the author of “*Memoirs of Algon Sydney*,” 8vo., &c. &c. His remains were followed to the grave by the president of the Sunderland Library (of which he was one of the founders), and a very large party of the subscribers and other gentlemen.

November.—Died, at Monckton, in the county of Durham, Elizabeth Clarke, aged 103 years.

This month, the entire skeleton of a woman was found in a bog, which was draining, on a farm in the parish of Monk Hesledon, near Castle Eden. The brain was in a considerable state of preservation. The skeleton was much bent in the middle, as if thrust by force into the bog. No appearance of clothes remained.

December 2.—Being the day appointed for the funeral of her late majesty, Queen Charlotte, the same was observed in Newcastle with every mark of mourning and respect. All business was suspended, the shops being universally shut. The flag of the castle was hoisted half staff high, and the flags of all the ships in the river were displayed half mast high. Slow muffled peals were rung upon the bells of the several churches, at different times during the day,

and the great bell of St. Nicholas tolled very slowly from one till two o'clock. At sunset, minute guns were fired from the guns on the castle for the space of one hour, each gun being followed by a solemn toll of the bell of St. Nicholas. The usual service was performed in the churches on the morning. Her majesty died November 17th, at Kew Palace, in the 75th year of her age.

1819 (*Jan. 10*).—Died, at Throckley, in Northumberland, Mr. Alder Penman, aged upwards of 100 years.

February 7.—Died, in All Saints' poor-house, in Newcastle, Margaret Purvis, in her 100th year. She was the mother of the famous musician, William Purvis, better known by the name of *Blind Willie*, never having had the use of sight, who is in the same poor-house, and who has travelled the streets of Newcastle, time out of mind, without a covering upon his head. Several attempts have been made, by presenting him with a hat, to induce him to wear one, but after having *suffered* it for a day or two, it is thrown aside, and the *minstrel* again becomes uncovered, preferring the exposure of his pate to "the pelting of the pitiless storm." A bard of the Tyne has declared, that should he survive, he will compose a solemn dirge on the death of Blind Willie, as he considers him the most worthy and harmless of all the Newcastle eccentrics, and therefore he ought to be placed at the head of them. Newcastle has had another blind minstrel. See *January 7th, 1749, vol. i. page 189*. There is an engraved whole length of *Blind Willie*, published by John Sykes.

February 12.—Died, at Hawkhill, Northumberland, David Watson, aged 102 years.

February 15.—Died, at Longhorsley, Northumberland, Mrs. Mary White, aged 102 years.

February 28.—Died, at Lumley, near Chester-le-Street, Eleanor Turner, aged 100 years.

March 22.—Jonathan Raine, esq., arrived in the city of Durham, and opened his commission for holding a general gaol delivery in the four northern counties. March 27th, he arrived in Newcastle, and opened his commission in the town and county courts. These were the first spring assizes held north of York.

April 12.—George Atcheson, aged 67, was executed in front of the new County Courts at Durham, for a rape on the body of Isabella Ramshaw, a child under ten years of age. From the time of his condemnation to the period of his execution, he was very penitent, and often expressed a wish that his untimely end might be a warning to others, and deter them from the commission of such a crime as an ignorant course of life had led him to.

April 14.—The execution of Joseph Charlton, aged 24 years, for an unnatural crime, took place at Morpeth. He was conducted from the gaol to the place of execution in a chaise, when he ascended the platform with great firmness, but very penitent, and after spending some minutes in prayer, he was launched into eternity. After his body had hung the usual time, it was cut down and delivered to his friends. On the arrival of the hearse with the body

at Earsden, four miles from Tynemouth, it was met by near 1,000 people, and by the time of its arrival at Tynemouth priory, the concourse had increased to upwards of 2,000, yet great order was preserved. It was half-past eight o'clock at night when the procession reached the grave, in which it was deposited, with decent solemnity, by candle light.

1819 (*April 15.*)—An elegant masked ball and supper took place at the Assembly Rooms, in Newcastle. From the preparations made by the committee, the entertainment was supposed never to have been surpassed in any provincial town. The costumes were superb, and the characters were supported with great judgment and spirit.

April 24.—Died, at his house, at Chimney-mills, on the Leazes, near Newcastle, Mr. John Mitchell, editor and printer of the *Tyne Mercury*, aged 47 years. April 27th, his remains were interred at the foot of the garden of his residence. The procession was conducted in the usual manner, and a numerous assemblage of friends attended the body to the grave. Before the principal part of the funeral service, which was read in a most impressive manner, from the reformed liturgy of Dr. Lindsey, by the Rev. William Turner, of Hanover Square chapel, that gentleman delivered the following explanatory address:—“*Friends and Fellow Christians*,—We are here assembled to discharge the last offices to the memory of our departed friend. If any should enquire into the reasons why we are called upon to do it in this place, rather than according to the customary mode of the country in which we live, I am desired by the family to state, that our friend always expressed the strongest reluctance to disturb the living with the remains of the dead, by crowding with them our churches and churchyards, and the most populous parts of our towns; and that he was often shocked at the little respect paid to those very remains, when he saw them lying promiscuously around the newly-opened graves; and as it appears from several remarkable passages that the scriptures authorize family burial places, and that particularly in gardens, he was anxious to imitate this primitive custom; himself made this express preparation for it,* and earnestly charged his family to comply with this his last request. However, therefore, we may, any of us, regret this departure from ordinary custom, or be led to question, in other respects, its prudence or propriety, I persuade myself these reasons will sufficiently acquit him of having directed it through any disregard to religion, or disrespect to the institutions of his country—(I know that he firmly believed the religion of Jesus Christ, and thought its dictates, precepts, and promises, the most valuable gift of God to man, however imperfectly he might himself observe them—and which of us but observes them very imperfectly!)—especially when I add, that it was his desire that his interment might be accompanied by some religious service. This it has fallen to my lot to conduct, and I have endeavoured to

* He had planted a spot of ground with laburnums, lilacs, and other trees, in the centre of which he desired his remains might be deposited.

make it as conformable as I consistently could with the form appointed by our established church. Agreeably to that form, we will now proceed to commit the remains of our friend to the silent abode which he has chosen for himself." Mr. Evelyn in his "*Sylva*" has very justly observed, "That there is no place more fit to bury our dead in than groves and gardens, where our beds may be decked and carpeted with verdant and fragrant flowers, trees, and perennial plants, the most natural and instructive hieroglyphics of our resurrection and immortality."

1819 (*April 27.*)—The foundation stone of a bridge over the river Wear, near Lambton-hall, built by J. G. Lambton, esq., M. P. (now Lord Durham), was laid on the south side of the river. It was completed September 27th the same year. The bridge, a simple elegant design by Bonomi, consists of a single arch, of which the span is 82 feet 6 inches.

May 25.—Died, at Nesham, near Darlington, Frances Water, a pauper, in her 101st year.

May 29.—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Elizabeth Grey, aged 104 years.

June 4.—Died, John Bailey, esq., of Chillingham, Northumberland, aged 68 years. He was the son of Mr. William Bailey, of Blades Field, near Bowes, in the county of York. Mr. Bailey shewed a taste for drawing very early in life, and was patronized and assisted in his pursuits, both in drawing and in mathematical studies by the late George Dixon, of Cockfield, who was his uncle by marriage. He was employed when a young man by Mr. Dixon as tutor to his children, during which time he employed himself in his leisure hours in drawing and engraving many pieces which bear his name. He never followed engraving as a sole occupation. Mr. Dixon was a very ingenious man—a good mathematician, a mineralogist, a painter, an engraver, a great experimentalist in chemistry, hydraulics, and pneumatics, and also an excellent land-surveyor, and *most beautiful planner*. No doubt Mr. Bailey profitted largely in his scientific knowledge by living under the roof of his relation. Mr. Bailey, after attending to the education of his cousins, practiced land-surveying, and for a short time was mathematical teacher under the Rev. John Farrer, at Witton-le-Wear. He there married the daughter of Nicholas Greenwell, esq. and shortly afterwards became Lord Tankerville's land-agent at Chillingham, which he continued to the time of his death. He at the same time did a great deal of business as a general land-agent and surveyor, and few men have greater claims to the gratitude of posterity for the many lasting improvements in rural economy planned and executed by him. Mr. Bailey engraved several of the plates of Hutchinson's topographical works; he was also the author of an "*Essay on the Construction of the Plough*," 8vo., and joint writer with Mr. Culley of the Northumberland Report, drawn up for the Board of Agriculture. See *May 7th*, 1813, page 72.

June 7.—Died, at Allenheads, Northumberland, Mr. Peter Green, aged 100 years.

1819 (*June*).—This month, as the sexton was digging a grave in the burial ground within Tynemouth castle, his spade struck against a stone coffin, which, on being examined, was found to contain a perfect skeleton, the bones of which were covered with leather, curiously cut and ornamented. On looking further, another coffin of the same description was found, which also contained a skeleton, but without the head. The bones of this latter were defended and adorned with leather in the same manner as the other. The leather was sewed tight round the bones, and it was therefore evident that the bodies had been anatomised before interment.

July 18.—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Mary Ferguson, widow, aged 105 years.

July 19.—A terrible accident occurred at Sheriff-hill colliery, near Gateshead. After the hewers had left work, an explosion of fire-damp took place, which unfortunately proved fatal to two men and thirty-three boys who happened to be in that part of the mine. This event occurred only half-an-hour before the pit was to have finished its day's work, otherwise the loss would, in all probability, have been more extensive. Upwards of twenty men and boys were in other parts of the mine when the accident happened; but fortunately escaped, a few only being slightly injured by the concussion and after-damp.

August 14.—About five o'clock in the afternoon, his royal highness Prince Leopold, accompanied by Baron Hardenbroke, Sir Robert Gardiner, and Dr. Stockmar, arrived at the Queen's Head inn, in Newcastle. A considerable concourse of people assembled in front of the inn, and his highness repeatedly gratified their curiosity by exhibiting himself at the windows. In the course of the evening he visited the Northumberland glass-house, and saw the process of glass making; he also visited the Assembly Rooms, with which he expressed himself much gratified. On the following morning (Sunday), his royal highness went to the house of William Loraine, esq., near St. Nicholas' church, where he condescendingly shewed himself at one of the windows to an immense number of persons assembled in front of the house. It being assize Sunday, as soon as the procession of the judges and corporate body had passed, and they had taken their seats in the church, his highness, accompanied by Sir William Scott, (now Lord Stowell, who was then on a visit to his relation, Joseph Forster, esq., mayor), and followed by his suite, proceeded to St. Nicholas' church, which he entered just before service commenced, and was conducted by Sir William Scott to the corporation seat. The church was crowded to excess, in expectation of his attendance; and as he passed along the aisle, both in going and coming out of church, he repeatedly bowed to the company on each side. After service his royal highness proceeded to view the Guild-hall, from whence he went to the Mansion-house, and on his way was saluted by the guns on the castle. On his arrival at the Mansion-house, he was received in form by the corporate body in their robes, and conducted into the

interior, where his highness partook of a collation. His highness soon after returned to the Queen's Head inn, and about half-past two o'clock left Newcastle for Alnwick castle to dine with his grace the duke of Northumberland. His royal highness arrived at Berwick, on Monday evening, about seven o'clock; his approach to that town was announced by a royal salute from the cannon on the fortifications, and his entrance greeted by the ringing of bells. During his short stay in Berwick, he was waited upon by the mayor and magistrates, when the former presented him with the freedom of the borough. His royal highness seemed much pleased with his reception. Prince Leopold was the widowed husband of the universally lamented Princess Charlotte. He is now king of Belgium.

1819 (*Aug. 16*).—John King, for the wilful murder of James Hamilton, in the cabin of Newbottle colliery staith, during the night of Sunday, the 16th of the preceding May, was executed pursuant to his sentence, at the New Drop, in front of the courts, in the city of Durham.

September 7.—The first stone of a Presbyterian chapel was laid at Thirston, near Felton, by Alexander Davison, esq., of Swarland, on a piece of ground generously granted by that gentleman, who also liberally subscribed £40. to aid in the erection of the said chapel. On this occasion, the Rev. George Atkin, of Morpeth, prayed, and an address was delivered by the Rev. Alexander Hoy.

September 23.—On the morning, a fire broke out in the dwelling house of Mr. Young, of Westoe, near South Shields, which in a short time destroyed the whole fabric.

This month, in digging to make gas tanks, at the Low Lights, near North Shields, in a place called the Salt Marsh, in Pow Dean, at the depth of twelve feet six inches from the surface, the workmen came to a framing of large oak beams, black as ebony, pinned together with wooden pins or tree-nails; the whole resembling a wharf or pier, whither ships drawing nine or ten feet water had come. Muscle-shells lay under an artificial spread or coating of fine clay, as in the bed of a river. Julius Agricola, about the 83d year of the Christian era, had his fleet in the river Tyne; but tradition says he moored them in the brook Don, near where Jarrow church now stands; he may have also moored some of them in this place (opposite to the Roman station, near South Shields), as it has been a secure estuary at the mouth of the Pow Burn, guarded from the sea by a peninsula of clay and sandy land, now called the Prior's Point, whereon Clifford's Fort was built in 1672. Large oak beams were also found, hollowed out as if to convey water. Had there been any scoriæ, or calcined stones, conjecture might have pointed to salt-works having been here; but, on the contrary, few stones were found, only sandy black mud, twelve or thirteen feet deep, and one freestone, squared out in the middle to hold the foot of a wooden pillar; hammer marks were visible in the sides of the square hole. On the side of the peninsula above referred to, next to the estuary, salt pans were working in the time

of the Priory, at Tynemouth ; probably as early as the year 800, and so to the dissolution in 1539 ; and according to local history and other records, the Pow Pans were making salt in the reign of queen Elizabeth ; and in 1634, the corporation of the Trinity-house, Newcastle, bought land near Tolland's, Delaval's, and Selby's pans, to erect their Low Light upon. The Danes often moored fleets in the river Tyne, in their pillaging and murderous excursions in the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th centuries. The peninsula called Priors' Point, appears to have had a fort erected upon it previous to building Clifford's Fort. *See October, 1811, page 64.*

1819 (*October 9*).—A dreadful accident happened from the explosion of inflammable gas, in the George Pit, near Lumley. The gas ignited at the candle of a hewer named Gee, who had worked into a board, where, owing it was supposed, to a fall of the roof, a quantity of gas had accumulated from a blower. By this accident eleven men and boys were killed on the spot. Gee and another boy died on the following day of the injury they sustained, and many others were severely hurt.

October 11.—A meeting of the inhabitants of Newcastle, and neighbourhood, to deliberate on the outrage at Manchester, was held on the town-moor, near Newcastle, and was most numerous attended. In the early part of the forenoon, the reform societies of Benwell and Fawdon arrived in town, and proceeded to join the Newcastle society assembling in the Castle Garth. At half-past eleven, the reform societies of Winlaton, Gateshead, North and South Shields, Sunderland, and the eastern part of the Newcastle district, passed through the town. When this immensely long line arrived at the head of Northumberland-street, it halted until the party which had assembled in the Castle-garth, and which did not leave its station till twelve o'clock, passed by it, and took its place at the head of the procession, which then moved to the moor. The whole was preceded by the hustings, which consisted of a covered platform raised upon the frame and wheels of a waggon, and drawn by three horses, decorated with red ribbons ; the hustings were hung round with black cloth, and on the front were inscribed the words, in black letters on a white ground, "TRUTH ! ORDER ! JUSTICE !" Several of the reform societies which formed the procession, were preceded by a person bearing a *Roman fasces*, and by a band of music which played at intervals. Next the band walked the committee, each member of which was distinguished by a white rod, at the top of which was a small knot of crape tied with white ; after these came the classes into which the societies were divided ; each being headed by the class leader, bearing at the end of a short black rod a small painted board, on which the number of the class and the initial letter of the society were painted. Each society was also attended with several flags, and at the head of the whole was borne an union jack, hoisted half staff high, in token of mourning ; many of the committees wore white hats with black hat-bands, and many were in black. The classes walked four abreast, holding each others' hands. The Shields reformers were accompanied by about three hundred sailors. Several parties of

female reformers were seen in the procession. On the most moderate computation, there could not be fewer than twenty or thirty thousand in rank, while some were of opinion the number was much greater. It was, however, afterwards ascertained by actual admeasurement, that the space occupied by the compact body of the meeting would hold 76,000 persons, at the rate of four to a square yard; but when the thousands of scattered spectators are included, and the close manner in which the great body stood, the whole may be safely stated at 100,000. The announcement of this meeting (by hand bill), intended at first to be held on the parade ground, excited a great deal of attention and curiosity, and many idle reports of apprehended tumult were in previous circulation, but the result proved what little cause there was for these, for never was there a meeting conducted with greater order and decorum, or one which passed off more peaceably.

1819 (*Oct. 14*).—A serious disturbance took place at North Shields. The mayor of Newcastle (Archibald Reed, esq.) had proceeded down the river with the civil power, aided by the boats of his majesty's ships, with a view of opening the navigation of the river, (which had been interrupted for some time by the riotous proceedings of the keelmen), and had gone on shore at North Shields. After the mayor, and the other gentlemen who accompanied him, had retired to the Northumberland Arms inn, the mob made an attack, with paving-stones and other missiles, upon the Speedwell steam-packet, by which several of the peace officers and the coxswain of the packet, were severely hurt; the marines then fired in protection of themselves and those in the steam-boat, when unfortunately one man, named Joseph Claxton, was shot upon the New Quay; this so exasperated the mob, that they turned their fury upon the inn, with threats of vengeance against the mayor, and exclaiming that they would have blood for blood. by the application of some iron pipes, they soon demolished the doors and windows of the inn, and liberated a man who had been taken into custody, when in the act of throwing stones. By the spirited exertions of Mr. Donkin, the high constable of the district, who fortunately arrived at the door in a chaise at the very time, they were held some time in check, and time was thus afforded Mr. Mayor and the gentlemen to escape by the back part of the inn. From the fury with which they were actuated, there was too much reason to fear that they would have carried their threats into execution; and so eager were they to attain their object, that they searched almost every part of the house. Their design was, however, frustrated. They also sought to wreak their vengeance on the officers in the steam-boat, but these had fortunately escaped over in boats to the south side of the river. The mob continued in the streets in the most tumultuous state till a late hour, but the arrival of a party of the 6th dragoon guards from the barracks at Newcastle, somewhat quieted the fears of the inhabitants. The town continued agitated for several days. The jury, after having sat five days on the body of the unfortunate man, returned a verdict of *justifiable homicide*.

1819 (*Nov. 2*).—Died, at Tynemouth, Mr. Robert Mills, aged 101 years.

November 5.—Died, at Throckley, Mr. John White, aged 105 years.

December 1.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Mr. John Stephenson, butcher, aged 102 years.

December 9.—Died, at his house, in the Pudding-chare, Newcastle, Mr. George Gray, an eminent fruit-painter, in the 61st year of his age. Mr. Gray, who was of very eccentric habits, was well skilled in chemistry and botany. His fruit pieces, when offered for sale, generally bring good prices. He was the son of Mr. Gilbert Gray, whose death is mentioned at page 371, vol. i. A portrait of Mr. George Gray was painted by Mr. Parker, and also etched by that artist.

December 12.—Died, in Pipewellgate, Gateshead, Mr. John Anderson, aged 103 years.

December 22.—Died, at Sunderland, Mrs. Catharine Clark, aged 107 years.

December 26.—Mr. Joseph Price, of Gateshead, glass-manufacturer, presented to the inhabitants of that parish, a valuable and elegant window of stained glass, for the south transept of St. Mary's church; in the centre is a representation of the annunciation of the virgin to whom the church is dedicated, below which is a reference to St. Luke, chap. i. verses 28 and 38, and the following inscription:—"Presented to the inhabitants of St. Mary, Gateshead, by Joseph Price, 1819." On each side of this the principal compartment, are also arched divisions of coloured glass, into which are introduced the arms of the borough of Gateshead, and the goat's head in a shield, with a crest taken from an old chair in the vestry, bearing date 1666, with the initials of the churchwardens of that year. *See vol. i. page 113.* On a line crossing the window, and dividing the above from the lower compartments, which are composed of variegated stained glass, are twelve coats of arms in the following order, viz.:—of the present rector (Rev. John Collinson), of the Rev. Henry Phillpotts (now bishop of Exeter), and Dr. Prosser, late rectors; of Adam Askew, esq., Cuthbert Ellison, esq., M. P.; the bishop of Durham (Barrington); the earls of Darlington and Strathmore; Sir Thomas Liddell bart., (now Lord Ravensworth); Sir Thomas Clavering bart.; John George Lambton, esq., M. P. (now Lord Durham); and Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., M. P. The brilliancy of the colouring, and the good arrangement of the drapery, is highly ornamental, and reflects great credit on the manufactory of the donor. At a meeting of the inhabitants, held in the vestry on the above day, (the Rev. John Collinson, rector, in the chair) the thanks of the parish was unanimously voted to Mr. Price, for his very liberal donation.

December 26.—Died, at Chilton, Durham, Robert Roan, labourer, aged 105 years.

This month the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer corps of cavalry was formed, under the command of Charles John

Brandling, esq., of Gosforth House; and a troop of dismounted yeomanry (the measure having been sanctioned by his majesty's government), to be joined to, and to act with the cavalry, was raised in Newcastle.

1819.—This year, North Gosforth Chapel, near Newcastle, which was rebuilt about the year 1798, was considerably enlarged.

1820 (*Jan. 1*).—The first number of a newspaper entitled "The Durham Chronicle, or General Northern Advertiser," was published in the city of Durham, by Mr. John Ambrose Williams. It is at present published by Mr. John Hardinge Veitch.

January 3.—Died, at Wall's End, Mrs. Kenlish, aged 105 years. She retained all her faculties till within a few days of her death.

January 6.—About eight o'clock in the evening, a dreadful explosion of gas, by which several persons were seriously injured and an infant killed, took place in Forth-street, Newcastle. During the greater part of that day, the family of Mr. Benjamin Slater, in front of whose house, in that street, one of the main gas pipes passed, but without having any communication with the house, had been greatly annoyed with the smell of gas, which was escaping from the pipe into the house. Information of this circumstance was communicated to the proper persons, at the gas-works, who promised to remedy the inconvenience next day, not conceiving any immediate danger. In the evening, however, as Mrs. Slater was sitting in the parlour conversing with a friend, she sent her daughter with a candle to the closet, when a most violent explosion of gas took place, by which the upper part of this house, and the whole of the back part of the one adjoining, were blown out and destroyed, and the houses otherwise much injured. Mrs. Slater's daughter was scorched most shockingly over all her body, and a young child was forced from Mrs. Slater's arms into the fire-place. Mrs. Slater was also much hurt. Mrs. Fletcher, her friend, escaped unhurt. But more serious injury was sustained in the adjoining house, occupied by Mr. John Slater, who was that evening entertaining a party of friends. The part of the house where they were sitting was quite demolished, and they were so crushed among the ruins, that it was some time before they were extricated. Mrs. John Slater had both her ankles put out. Mrs. Debnun had also both her ankles put out, and her arm broken; and had the further misfortune of having her child, a baby of about five weeks old, which she was holding in her arms, unfortunately killed. Mr. Debnun also received some injury, as did Mr. John Slater, and some others. From the violence of the explosion, some tables and chairs were thrown across the street, and a window being blown quite out, was thrown to a great distance. Some persons passing were also hurt by the falling bricks, &c. At the assizes held in Newcastle in August, 1821, Mr. Debnun brought an action against the gas company, and obtained £460 damages.

January 12.—About half-past nine o'clock at night an alarming fire broke out in the house occupied by Mrs. Lynn, in New Cross-street, Sunderland. The flames burst out with great violence, and

apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the neighbouring houses, but by the speedy arrival of the engines, and the praiseworthy exertions of the inhabitants in supplying them with water, the fire was confined to the back part of the premises in which it commenced, and which it completely destroyed. It is melancholy to add, that Mrs. Lynn was herself unfortunately burnt to death.

1820 (*Feb. 3*).—The accession of his majesty George the Fourth to the throne of these realms was proclaimed in Newcastle. About two o'clock in the afternoon, Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, several of the aldermen, and other members of the corporation, attended by the general of the district, Sir Andrew Bernard, and other military officers, after having drunk the health of his majesty, in the Guildhall, appeared on the Sandhill in front of that building, and there, in the presence of an immense assemblage of people, after a flourish of trumpets, the proclamation was read by Mr. James Sopwith, town-marshal. The reading of it was received with cheers, and immediately after a royal salute was fired from the guns on the castle. The procession then moved forward, preceded by the band of the 6th dragoon guards, mounted, playing "*God save the King*;" these were followed by a party of free-porters bearing halberds, the sergeants at mace, town-marshal, &c., accompanied with a flag, on which was represented the arms of the town. Next came the sword and mace bearers, who were followed by the mayor, supported on his right by Sir Andrew Bernard, and on his left by another officer. His worship was followed by the recorder, aldermen, sheriff, together with many officers and several members of the common council and other gentlemen; the whole was closed by two troops of the 6th dragoon guards. When the procession arrived opposite to St. Nicholas' church it halted, and the proclamation was again read. The procession again moved forward up the Middle-street to the White Cross, and along Low Friar-street, and Westgate-street, to the castle, at both of which places the proclamation was again read. From the castle the procession returned by the head of the Side and Mosley-street, to the Guildhall. During the day the bells of the churches rang several peals.

February 5.—The king was proclaimed at Alnwick. The high sheriff, William Orde, of Nunnykirk, esq., arrived a little before one o'clock at the Swan inn, (where several gentlemen had assembled to attend him) and proceeded immediately to the Market-cross, preceded by a band of music, the under sheriff and bailiffs with white wands. He was accompanied by his grace the duke of Northumberland, and several of the magistrates and country gentlemen; the staff of the county militia also attended. After the proclamation was read, during which the people were uncovered, the populace joined the gentry in cheering, and his majesty's health was drunk amidst shouts of approbation, while the band played "*God save the King*." The duke of Northumberland had ordered several barrels of ale and carts with bread and cheese, to be in the Market-place; the provisions and liquor were distributed to

the people, while a double royal salute was fired from the field-pieces at the castle, and the flag hoisted. The procession then returned to the Swan inn, and from thence accompanied his grace to his princely mansion, where a very handsome collation was served for such gentlemen as called. Upwards of 200 of his grace's permanent workmen, and the children of their grace's schools, with the militia staff, being together above 500 persons, had bread and cheese, and ale served out to them in the inner court of this ancient pile, where the duke and duchess set them the example of drinking his majesty's health, in which they all heartily joined. The high sheriff, as well as the duke, broke their glasses after drinking the king's health, according to the good old custom on such occasions, to prevent their ever being used again on a less important event. Proclamations were made at all the other towns.

1820 (*Feb.* 16).—The day of interment of the remains of his most gracious majesty George III. was observed in Newcastle with every mark of mourning and respect. At eight o'clock the flag on the castle was hoisted half-staff high, and continued so until the evening; the flags of the several ships in the harbour were also displayed half-mast high; the bells in the different churches were muffled, and rung mourning peals during the day. At the usual time on the morning there was service in the several churches and chapels, and appropriate sermons preached; the churches were hung with black. The soldiers, composing the garrison, consisting of some troops of the 6th dragoon guards, and parties of royal artillery, and of the 33d and 40th foot, marched through the town to St. Nicholas' church in slow and solemn step, the band playing a very mournful air; this had a most impressive effect. The instruments of the band were hung with crape. The Newcastle lodge of free masons also attended divine service in St. Nicholas' church, but without their insignia. The soldiers returned from church without music. From one o'clock till two, minute guns were fired from the guns on the castle, and between each gun the great bell of St. Nicholas gave a solemn toll. This was repeated between four and five o'clock in the evening. The shops were all shut during the day, and business generally suspended. The day was observed in a similarly mournful manner at all the neighbouring towns and many of the villages. George III. died January 29th, 1820, in the 82d year of his age, and his son George IV. was proclaimed in London on the 31st of January.

March 11.—Died, at Salutation, near Darlington, Mr. Benjamin Garnett, in his 105th year. He never experienced one day's illness, and walked about till a few hours before his death, and had the use of his faculties to the last.

March 24.—This being the day appointed for the Northumberland and Newcastle cavalry, commanded by lieutenant-colonel Brandling, to receive their colours, the corps, which was then on permanent duty, preceded by the band of the 6th dragoon guards, marched to the town-moor, and being formed on three sides of a square, fronting the Grand Stand, Mrs. Brandling, supported by

Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Brown, in their joint names presented the standards intended for the three squadrons, observing, "that when they requested the corps to allow them the high honour of presenting them with their standards, they felt the fullest conviction, that they entrusted them to those, who, in every situation, would defend them like Englishmen;" to which the colonel replied in a speech fraught with loyalty. The standards were then delivered to the troops, whose loud cheers, accompanied by a salute fired by the royal artillery, had a grand and impressive effect.

1820.—In the early part of this year, C. W. Bigge, Esq., of Linden House, munificently contributed to the comfort, convenience, and elegance of Longhorsley church, by building a new vestry, repairing the chancel, and enlarging the arch between the church and chancel, which before was so contracted as literally to divide them into two separate apartments; he also made an elegant altar-table and rails, from a part of an immense oak tree, dug out of a moss in his estate, where it must have lain for an unknown series of ages.

April 28.—Died, at Langley, in Kent, her grace the duchess dowager of Northumberland, in her 67th year. May 10th, her grace's remains were interred in the same vault in St. Nicholas' chapel, in Westminster Abbey, in which those of the late duke were deposited. There were upwards of 100 private carriages in the procession, besides mourning coaches. The funeral service was performed in a most solemn manner by Dr. Fynnes.

April 28.—An explosion took place in Jarrow colliery, by which unfortunate event two persons lost their lives.

May 4.—Died, at Heathery Burn, near Hexham, Mrs. Margaret Lee, aged 107 years.

May 5.—The first stone of a new chapel in the Wesleyan Methodist connection, was laid in Northumberland-street, Newcastle. The Rev. Edmund Grindrod delivered a short address to a respectable audience. He stated, that the first stone of the contiguous chapel (Orphan House), for which this was intended as an enlarged substitute, was laid by the Rev. John Wesley, on the 20th of December, 1742, (*see vol. i. page 167,*) and that for many years past it had been much too small to accommodate the stated hearers. Friday, February 23d, 1821, this elegant chapel was first opened for divine worship, when eloquent and powerful sermons were preached by the Rev. Messrs. Newton, Atherton, and Wood, to crowded audiences. Very neat houses were soon after built on each side of the opening which leads from Northumberland-street to the chapel, and which is called Brunswick-place.

May 17.—A thunder storm passed over Newcastle; a concussion took place directly over the centre of the town about one o'clock, and instantly a mass of fire fell with a stunning report, as though a bomb had burst near the ear. The lightning struck the chimney of a house at the foot of the Side, which it scattered partly into the street and partly through the roof, providentially without injuring any person. The lightning also struck the spindle

at the mast-head of a sloop, near White-hill point, on the river Tyne, shivered the mast from end to end, burnt one of the sails to tinder in an instant, and raised the deck from the beams four or five inches. A hole was made in the mast, as if an 18 pounder had gone into it.

1820 (*May 26*).—Died in All Saints' poor-house, Newcastle, Thomas Matfin, aged 77 years. When a boy, and in St. John's charity school, he was supposed to have died. His school-fellows, according to the then custom, attended to sing at his funeral. On entering the church porch their voices reverberated so shrilly, as to arouse him from his lethargy, and he turned on his side to listen. The underbearers, who were just setting the coffin upon the bier, felt the motion, and in a fright informed the clergyman, who ordered the lid to be unscrewed. On perceiving that life had returned, he was immediately taken home to his aunt's house in Low Friar-street, where he was wrapped in a blanket, and having drank a little of some invigorating cordial, was put to bed, and soon recovered. He afterwards became a keelman, and being in his old age, turned out of the keelmen's hospital for irregular conduct, he became an inmate of All Saints' poor-house, where he died as above stated, and was interred at All Saints' church by the Rev. Robert Green, on the 28th of May, 1820.

June 20.—Died, at Slaley, in Northumberland, Mrs. Mary Carr, aged 100 years.

June 22.—The foundation of a new bridge at Chester-le-street was laid in the presence of a great number of the inhabitants. On taking down part of the old bridge, an old copper coin, supposed to be of James I., was found amongst the rubbish. February 22d, 1821, this bridge was opened for public carriages, when three guineas given by Earl Grey were drunk on the bridge. The inscription of "Grey's Arch, November 17th, 1820," was cut on the stone over the arch, being the day his lordship was drawn through the town by the inhabitants, as he was returning from London from the defence of her Majesty Queen Caroline.

June.—This month, the workmen digging in the streets at North Shields, to lay gas pipes in a place there called the Bull Ring, came to a large flat square stone, in which, on being turned over, were found, greatly corroded, the iron bolt and ring to which bulls had been made fast, when baited there in old times. At certain festivals, in the days of Tynemouth Priory, the rude sport of bull-baiting was common at Shields; but after the reformation, and subsequent civil wars, the practice in the north greatly declined, and is now, with the exception of two or three recent instances, (which, it is to be hoped, will never be repeated,) totally abolished.

July 8.—The bill for lighting, cleansing, and improving the town of Stockton upon Tees, received the royal assent. November 15th, 1822, the town was first lighted with gas, on which occasion there was a public dinner, J. Wilkinson, esq. in the chair, when many loyal and appropriate toasts were drunk, and the bells were rung during the lighting of the lamps.

1820 (*July 19*).—The chain bridge across the river Tweed, near Paxton Ford, about six miles above Berwick, was opened to the public. Captain S. Brown, R. N., the inventor, in his tandem, first, followed by twelve double-horse carts, laden with stones, and Mr. Molle, of Molle Mains, in his carriage, passed and returned along the bridge. The stability of the structure being tried, the right hon. the earl of Home, and the commissioners of the high roads, preceded by the bands of the Berwickshire and Northumberland militias, playing "*God save the King*," then passed along it. The earl of Home and a numerous party of gentlemen sat down to a most excellent dinner, prepared in a tent, by Mr. Paulin, of Horn-dean, and the day was spent in the utmost harmony. Several thousands of people were present at the opening. The suspension arch is forty-five feet, and is sufficient to allow two carts to pass, and a foot-path on each side. The extreme length of the suspending chains from the point of junction, on each side of the river Tweed, is 590 feet; from the stone abutments, 432 feet; and the height above the surface of the river is 27 feet. The weight of the chains, platform, &c. is about 160 tons; but the bridge is calculated to support a weight of 360 tons,—a greater weight, in all probability, than it will ever be subjected to. This curious and elegant structure only cost £5,000., whereas a stone bridge in the same situation could not have been erected for £20,000. It is called the Union Bridge, and was commenced building on the 19th of July, 1819.

July 27.—Died, at Darlington, Jane Rutherford, aged 100 years.

September 9.—Died, at Great Aycliffe, Durham, Ann Simpson, aged 101 years.

September 26.—Died, at Hepple, near Rothbury, Mrs. Jane Hall, aged 101 years.

October 19.—The town of North Shields was first lighted with gas.

October 31.—As Arthur Marlham, of Greatham, was shrimping on the sand islands, in the river Tees, he was overtaken by the tide in the dusk of the evening. He did not see his danger till he was nearly surrounded by the water, and knowing there was no possibility of escape, he began to consider how he could longest preserve himself from being carried away by the tide. A sand-bank of a few yards was all the uncovered space left him: he selected the highest spot, on which he placed his *leap* (a wicker basket carried on the shoulder in shrimping), and fixing his shrimping-pole, with the net downwards, to give the pole as sure a purchase as he could, he mounted his basket, and held by the pole. The tide soon covered his feet, and gradually flowed as high as his middle. After three hours, he thought he saw the waters fall; but in a few minutes a breeze sprung up, and the tide flowed again six or seven inches. The tide, however, was falling, and he remained on his sand-bank till he was relieved by the fishing boats in the morning. His situation in the river was two miles from the Durham coast, and three from Yorkshire; in the midst of the Tees

estuary, with the wide ocean full in front at the river mouth. He said it was an awful sight to *look over the waters*; but his presence of mind and his trust in Providence never forsook him.

1820 (*Nov. 20*).—Newcastle and Gateshead were brilliantly illuminated, as a testimony of joy on the abandonment of the bill against her majesty Queen Caroline, consort of George IV. About seven o'clock in the evening the lighting commenced, and a number of devices and transparencies were exhibited in various parts of the town. The smaller mottoes, in general, were—" *Long live Queen Caroline*;" " *Innocence triumphant*;" " *Earl Grey for ever*," &c. &c. The house of Mr. Joseph Price, in Gateshead, was one entire blaze of lamps of various tints, and of the most brilliant lustre. Illuminations and other rejoicings were very general throughout the counties of Durham and Northumberland. August 7th, 1821, her majesty died at Hammersmith, after an illness of eight days.

This month, immediately above the excavation of the lime-stone at Carley-hill quarry, which is situated about a quarter of a mile west of Fulwell-hill, in the parish of Monkwearmouth, and about two hundred yards west of Hill-house, the residence of Mr. Wake, senior, whilst removing the surplus soil, Thomas Dobson, quarryman, found a Roman figure, which appeared to be a Lar. There were found at the same time, several portions of human bones, and a quantity of common rock limpet shells, embedded in lime-stone rubbish and surface soil. It is worthy of remark, that several excavations have been discovered in the solid lime-stone rock at Carley-hill (similar to stone coffins) containing human bones.

The great northern gateway which stood across Sadler-street, in the city of Durham, was this year taken down. It had been long used as the gaol, and was a very strong fabric; the outward or lower part was defended by a gate and portcullis, within which was a recess constructed with sally-ports and galleries, for the annoyance of assailants, who might force the first gate; the upper part was secured by double gates. This was the last of the city gates.

This year, Mrs. Mary Pease, widow of Mr. Joseph Pease, of Darlington, woollen manufacturer, erected four alms-houses in Darlington, for the residence of four poor widows of the age of fifty years at least, and of good moral character and reputation, to be nominated by the Society of Friends.

This year and the following, the Register office in the Palace-green, in the city of Durham, was built by subscription on the site of the old county courts.

1821 (*Jan. 2*).—Early on the morning, John Wilson, a pitman, aged 64 years, fell down the shaft of Sheriff-hill colliery, near Gateshead, in the dark, but fortunately caught hold of the rope with his left hand, at the depth of about 80 feet; although it lacerated his hand by the friction, he was able to stop his descent and suspend himself, until his fellow-workmen heard his cries, and lowered down a corf by another rope, which took above a quarter of an hour,

when providentially he got into it and was drawn up safely. Had he descended a few fathoms lower, he would have reached the end of the rope, and must have been killed by a fall of 450 feet.

1821 (*Jan. 5*).—When some workmen were removing rubbish on the premises of Mr. Fair, of Hide-hill, Berwick, cabinet maker, they found a small wooden box, containing 18 gold pieces of Henry VIII., Mary, and Elizabeth; and also 20 silver coins of Elizabeth. The whole in good preservation. The gold coins weighed two and a half ounces, and the silver coins two ounces. The workmen immediately sold their prize to a jeweller, and regaled themselves with the proceeds.

January 7.—Died, at Dam-house, near Kirkley, Mrs. Margaret Rowland, in her 101st year.

January 19.—Died, at West Thirston, in Northumberland, aged 74 years, John Marshall, better known by the name of "*Blind Johnny*." He lost his sight by the small-pox, when four years of age, but the perfection in which he possessed the sense of hearing, compensated in a great measure for the loss. He worked occasionally at the anvil and the loom, but for a considerable time before his death, his main dependence for support was on his skill in playing on the violin. So intimately was he acquainted with the surrounding country, that he could readily find any part of it without a guide; indeed, he sometimes acted as a guide to strangers.

February 15.—The chapel belonging to the establishment at Hylton-ferry, near Sunderland, erected and endowed at the sole expense of T. J. Maling, esq., captain R. N., was consecrated by the bishop of St. David's. Upon this occasion, a sermon was preached by the Rev. Robert Gray, M. A., rector of Sunderland, from Genesis, chap. 28, ver. 17.

Same day, died at the Westgate, Newcastle, aged 96 years, Ann Nichol, formerly of Horsley. She retained her faculties to the last, and was one of the oldest members of the Methodist Society in this district. When the Orphan-house, in Northumberland-street, was built in 1742, she sold a piece of cloth to enable her to contribute towards its erection; and it was remarkable that the Orphan-house was closed as a place of divine worship on the day of her interment.

February 19.—Died, at the North-shore, near Newcastle, Elizabeth Dryden, aged 107 years.

March 6.—Died, at Cullercoats, Mrs. Isabella Armstrong, widow, aged 103 years.

March 9.—The brewery at Monkseaton, near North Shields, was discovered to be on fire, and before it was got under, the drying kiln was totally destroyed, with about sixty bolls of malt.

March 20.—A newly-erected steam mill, for grinding corn, at Stockton, belonging to Mr. C. Cooke, was discovered to be on fire, and the whole of the building, except the engine-house, together with a quantity of corn and flour, was consumed.

March 23.—Died, at South Shields, Hannah Marshall, aged 104 years.

March 28.—Died, at his house in Portman-place, London, in the

64th year of his age, Michael Bryan, esq., a native of Newcastle. Mr. Bryan was an ingenious connoisseur in the fine arts, who also distinguished himself as an author. He was at one time a picture dealer, but though possessed of undoubted skill and judgment as to the merits of the productions of ancient and modern painters, he was so unfortunate in some of his speculations as to be obliged to relinquish that pursuit. His taste and knowledge, however, were so highly appreciated, that his opinion was often sought, and many large sums have been expended in the purchase of works of art through his recommendation. Retiring from active life, he engaged in the composition of a "*Biographical and Critical Dictionary of Painters and Engravers*," which was commenced in 1813, and published in 1816, in 2 vols. 4to. This work is more copious and accurate than that of *Pilkington*, and many of the original sketches do much credit to the writer. Mr. Bryan was allied to a noble family, having married the sister of the earl of Shrewsbury.

1821 (*March 28*).—Died, at Widdrington, in Northumberland, Mr. Robt. Reed, aged 67 years. He was well known for his knowledge and management of bees, in which he took great delight. He several times exhibited a swarm suspended from his hand on the market days at Morpeth and Alnwick, as well as at other places.

This month, the lower part of the horn of a deer, of extraordinary size, was dug up in the grounds at Campville, South Preston, near Tynemouth. Mr. Fenwick, the proprietor, had ordered a well to be filled up, first removing the walling stones. Considerably in the earth, near the stones, the remains of this large antler were found, in the north-east angle of the Roman camp, called in *Brand*, "*Blake Chesters*," and referred to by *Camden* as one of the oblong squares (*Blake Chesters* being the principal) running in a zigzag direction from *Segedunum* (Wallsend) to Tynemouth. Sacrifices of wild animals to the Gods were frequently made in those stations; and some faint tradition yet remains of a temple to Diana, or some heathen Deity, having stood at Middle Chirton, the western side of this camp or chain of forts. The head of an ancient spear had been dug up in the same site.

April 4.—The foundation stone of a new subscription library was laid on the site of the old gaol, in the city of Durham, on which occasion Dr. Fenwick delivered a suitable address to the company assembled.

April 25.—The foundation stone of a new place of worship, for the Protestant dissenters of the Baptist persuasion, was laid in Barrington-street, South Shields, when an appropriate and impressive discourse was delivered by the Rev. John Winter, founded on the middle clause of the 5th verse of the 20th Psalm.

May 16.—The building a stone bridge, at the expense of the duke of Northumberland, over the river Alne, near Alnwick Abbey, was begun. This was a great public accommodation, as the ford there was often very dangerous to pass.

May 23.—The foundations of a new chapel, to be built by subscription, began to be dug out at Nether Heworth, in the county

of Durham, the first stone of which, inclosing an appropriate inscription on copper, was laid on the following day. This chapel was opened for divine worship on the 5th of May, 1822. On the 27th of September, 1808, half an acre which had been added to this chapel yard, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham. *See March 21st, 1766. vol. i. page 257.*

1821 (*June 2*).—About two o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in the barn, thrashing-machine, and straw-house, belonging to John Russell, esq. of Heworth, and before the progress of the flames could be stopped, the machinery, roofs, and interior of the houses were consumed.

July 1.—Died, at the Moor-houses, in Northumberland, Ann Rule, single-woman, aged 100 years.

July 7.—John, Lord Eldon, lord high chancellor of England, was created an earl by the stile of Viscount Encombe and Earl of Eldon.

July 9.—An explosion took place in Rainton North Pit, when one man lost his life.

Same day, an explosion took place in Coxlodge colliery, by which one man lost his life.

July 10.—During the preparations in Newcastle, for the celebration of the coronation, the workmen, on breaking the pavement on the Sandhill, for a foundation for the temporary wine pant, discovered a large stone with an iron ring, to which formerly bulls had been fastened for that cruel torture, bull-baiting. *See January 21st and 25th, 1768, vol. i. 265.* This must have been a second bull-ring, as one was removed by order of the magistrates a few days after the latter period.

July 12.—The workmen employed in converting Gunner-tower (part of the town's wall, Newcastle), near the Forth-lane, into a hall, for the incorporated company of slaters and tylers, found a large quantity of shillings and sixpences of the coinage of Edward I.

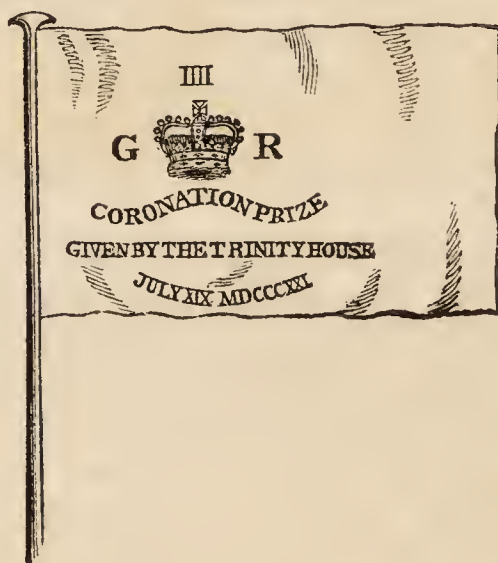
July 15.—Died, Mr. William Cant, master of the Blue Bell, head of the side, Newcastle, aged 70 years, formerly piper to the Northumberland militia. He was an excellent performer on the violin and the Northumberland pipes, and, like his great predecessors on the latter instrument, Turnbull, Gilley, old Lamshaw, and Peacock, he kept up the ancient tunes, with all their charming lilt and pauses, unspoiled by the *modern improvers* of music, with their "idiot notes impertinently long." He played "his native wood notes wild," such as pleased the ears of the yeomanry of old at Otterburn, Hedgeley Moor, and Floddon Field, and

"When e'er his pipe did silence break,
You'd thought the instrument would speak."

July 19.—The day of the coronation of his majesty George IV. at Westminster, was observed in Newcastle with great rejoicings. The large fire places, or rather double furnaces, between which the two oxen intended for public distribution were to be roasted, the immense spits, cranes, scaffolding, &c., were completed in the early part of the week, and became objects of curious inspection; one was placed in the centre of the Spital—the other, at the foot

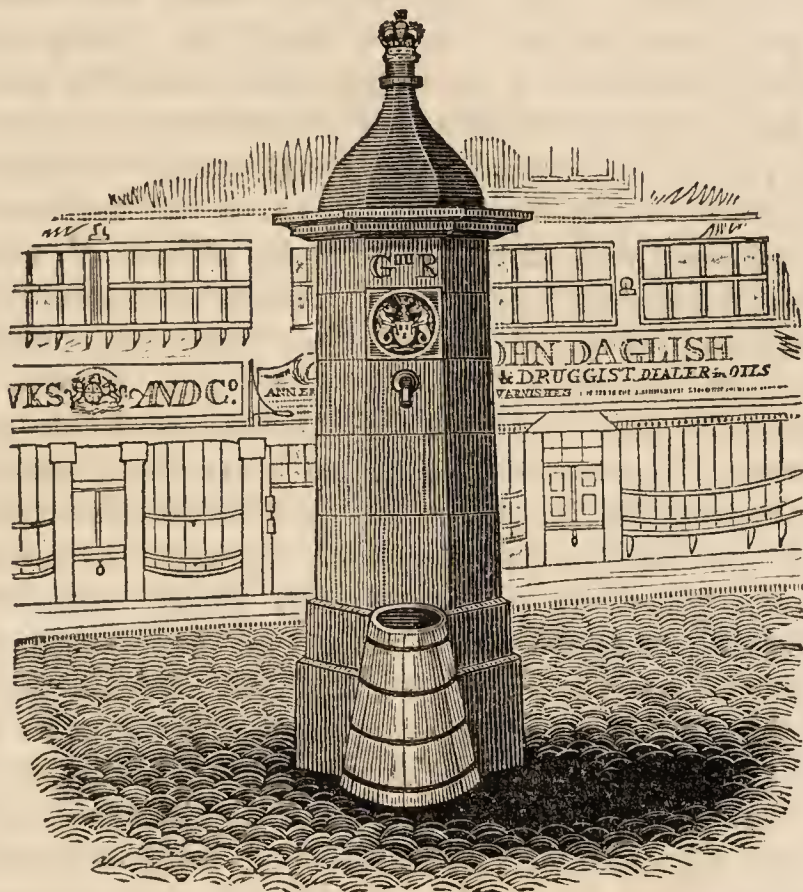
of the Old Flesh Market; near each of them was a wooden pant or fountain, to run beer. In the centre of the Sandhill was another temporary, but larger fountain, to run wine. About two o'clock on the morning, the fires were lighted, and the roasting of the oxen commenced, and from that hour the streets became crowded with people. Numbers had arrived from the country the evening before, but on Thursday morning, the day being auspiciously fine, they poured into the town by thousands in all sorts of vehicles. Never did the streets of Newcastle exhibit such a congregated mass. At six o'clock on the morning the guns from the castle announced, by a royal salute, that the rejoicings had commenced; the flag was hoisted, and the ships displayed their colours, and the bells of the several churches rang their merry peals. About nine o'clock all was anxious expectation to witness the boat race from Walker's Quay to Tyne Bridge, for the following prizes, which had been announced a few days previous by bills, viz.:—For the first boat six sovereigns; second boat three ditto; third boat two ditto; and the fourth boat one ditto, given by the corporation; in addition to which, the Trinity-house was to present the first boat with an elegant

BLUE SILK FLAG,



on which was gilt a crown and suitable inscription. This flag was the great object of ambition to the competitors, and for which thirteen boats had entered. In consequence of a dispute, the prizes were not adjudged until the competitors again tried their skill on August 1st (the anniversary of the battle of the Nile), when the flag was won by the Laurel Leaf, belonging to Stella. At half-past nine o'clock, the mayor, recorder, aldermen, sheriff, and common council, met, and voted an address to his majesty; after which, the mayor, George Forster, esq., was invested with a gold chain and medallion, which had been voted at a former common council, and which was to be worn by all the future chief magistrates of that town. At half-past ten o'clock, the mayor and corporation, preceded by a band of music, and followed by a number of gentlemen, walked in procession to St. Nicholas' church,

where an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. John Smith, M. A, vicar, from 1st Kings, 1st chap. 39th verse. Before the return of the magistracy, &c. from church, immense crowds had assembled at the places which were to be the scenes of expected festivity, particularly the Sandhill, in the centre of which stood



THE WINE PANT,

which was a neat erection of wood, twelve feet high, painted to resemble stone, and surmounted by a cupola, copper bronze, on the top of which, was a full sized imperial crown, encircling a cap of state of crimson velvet, turned up with ermine. At the bottom of this roof was a ledge, below which was "G. III. R.," in gilt letters, and beneath this was a very neat painting of the arms of the town. On the return of the magistrates, &c., to the Sandhill, it was found utterly impossible to approach the pant, they therefore proceeded to the Town Court, when having come forward to the great window, they drank his majesty's health, which was followed by a royal salute from the guns on the castle, and repeated peals of bells from the churches. At the same moment the pant began to run wine, when an almost indescribable scene of uproarious confusion commenced. During the struggles to obtain a part of the wine, a man got upon the tub, and seizing the spout, clung to it until his clothes were literally torn from his body.* He was useful in handing the liquor to others, particularly those on the ledge, who by this time amounted to about eight, but two or three of them having

* Mr. Parker, the artist, of Newcastle, painted a picture of this ludicrous scene. After being exhibited in London, it was purchased by the corporation of Newcastle, for the purpose of decorating the walls of the Mansion-house.

made too free with the "*rosy god*," fell to the ground, a height of nine feet, one of them being severely hurt. After running upwards of an hour, the wine ceased to flow, when, having nothing to attract their attention, the mob began to throw about the pots, soaked hats, caps, &c., to the no small annoyance of the peaceably inclined inhabitants. The top of the Court was crowded with people, as was every window on the Sandhill. Many houses had a kind of gallery erected on their tops with seats for the accommodation of ladies and gentlemen. The pant was totally torn down, and a great part of it carried away by the mob. During the time of the *exhibition* on the Sandhill, the ox at the bottom of the Old Flesh Market was taken from the fire, by means of a crane, to a stage erected for the purpose, and four butchers ascended the platform to cut it in pieces for distribution. As they cut the pieces, they threw them amongst the crowd, who, in return, pelted the butchers with the pieces of meat and bones, until they drove them from the stage. The remains of the ox were then taken possession of, and soon distributed; and the chain of the crane having been broken in an attempt to pull the stage up with it, it was fastened to part of the skeleton of the animal, which was then dragged through the streets to the Sandhill. The furnace was then partly pulled to pieces; and fragments of meat, and even brick bats, began to fly in all directions, many persons receiving bruises. The procession of mail coaches passing at the time, was shamefully pelted, and one of the men much hurt. The distribution of the ox at the Spital was attended with similar circumstances; the butchers, &c., were speedily driven from the stage, and the skeleton taken possession of and dragged to the Sandhill. The ale kept running from the pants in the Old Flesh Market and the Spital till near three o'clock, when the pants were demolished. By this time the crowd was attracted to the town-moor to witness the race for the gold cup, and the streets were soon quiet. This was a fortunate circumstance, for had there been no such object, it is most probable that the peace of the town would not have been so soon restored. As it was, on their return from the town-moor, the mob assailed the remains of the temporary erections in the Flesh Market and the Spital, and carried off the planks and all the iron in their power. At ten o'clock, further demolition was stopped by the police. There was a pant also ran beer at the Milk-market, Sandgate, which was chiefly occupied by women and children. The inmates of the corporation hospitals received five shillings each from that body, and five shillings more from the members for the town. The prisoners in the gaol and house of correction received five shillings each. The children of the endowed charity schools of the four parishes were provided with a substantial dinner, as were the inmates of the poor houses. There were grand dinners at the Mansion-house and Trinity-house. At the Assembly Rooms was a ball; and the pit and gallery of the Theatre were opened to the free burgesses, gratis, on the invitation of the mayor by a bill. In the forenoon there was a grand military review on the town-moor. In the

evening Sir Robert Shafto Hawks had a very tasteful illumination on the outside of his house in Clavering-place, which was repeated the following evening. At Gateshead the rejoicings commenced at six o'clock on the morning, by the bells ringing a merry peal, which, with the firing of guns at the factory of Messrs. Hawks, continued at intervals. At nine o'clock the children of St. Edmund's chapel school, to the number of 340, assembled in the rectory garden, and received each a sixpence of the new coinage, a glass of wine, and a cake, and a copy of our national anthem, "*God save the King*," which they sung with enthusiasm. The money was subscribed by the members of the school committee. A subscription was also entered into by the inhabitants of Gateshead, which was distributed among the poor, and a plentiful dinner given to the inmates of the poor-house. Much private charity was dispensed. *See a detailed account of the proceedings in Newcastle and Gateshead, published by John Sykes.*

Amongst the rejoicings at Durham on account of the coronation, a small ox was roasted at the head of Old Elvet, the gift of Lord Stewart, now marquis of Londonderry. It was soon cut in pieces, which, together with a quantity of bread, were thrown indiscriminately at the public; but no sooner was this done, than the populace immediately commenced pelting with it those on the platform, so that his lordship's generosity on this occasion was literally *thrown away*. Several barrels of ale were also given away, which added considerably to the tumult and confusion.

At North Shields a quantity of meat and bread was distributed to the public in a manner highly commendable. Several tables were set out in the market-place, and a loaf of bread, and two pounds of meat on a cabbage leaf, with fourpence to purchase ale, were given to such poor persons as had produced tickets for them.

1821 (*July 26*).—About eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the soap-house belonging to Anthony Clapham and Co., at the Ouseburn, near Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire, and in a few minutes the flames blazed with great fury, and threatened the most tremendous consequences. The assistance of the workmen from the neighbouring manufactories was immediately volunteered, by whose exertions, with the assistance of the fire-engines, the destructive element was in a short time overcome. It originated in, and was confined to, that part of the building exclusively appropriated to the preparation of alkalies, the timbers and flooring of which were exceedingly dry, from the heat of the process, and the long continued dryness of the weather.

August 9.—About one o'clock on the morning, a destructive fire broke out in that part of the premises occupied by the Northumberland Glass Company, which fronted the Close, Newcastle; and such was the violence of the flames, and the rapidity with which they spread, that at two o'clock the greater part of the premises was in a complete blaze, and, in defiance of all efforts, that very extensive establishment, with the warehouses, and the greater part of the superb stock, fell a prey to the flames. The only part

left standing was the cone, containing the furnace, adjoining the river Tyne. Some adjoining dwelling-houses, inhabited by labouring people, were involved in the calamity, several families having nearly lost their all. Great fears were entertained for the safety of the soap manufactory (which at one time was on fire), belonging to Messrs. Doubleday and Co., adjoining to the Glass-house on the west side, but a strong west wind carried the flames in an opposite direction. The Mansion-house and Messrs. Doubleday and Co.'s counting-house being on the east side, and nearly adjoining the Glass-house, were in imminent danger from the flames and heavy showers of sparks which were carried to them by the wind. And, to add to the danger, several hundreds of barrels of rosin were lying in an open yard close to the Mansion-house; on them the sparks fell thick and fast, but fortunately they did not take fire, though, to prevent such a catastrophe, men were placed on the watch with buckets of water, and many of the casks were removed into the street. By great exertions the fire was confined to the glass-house premises, and about half-past five o'clock was got nearly under, though some of the ruins continued to burn during the day.

1821 (*Sept.* 10).—John Wilkinson and William Surtees Hetherington, for robbing Mr. William Nesbit, farmer, of Long Benton, on Benton Bank, on his return from Newcastle in the evening of the preceding 7th of April, were executed at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentence. They were taken from the gaol to the place of execution in a post-chaise, preceded by a band of singers. On their arrival at the fatal spot (a little below the east end of the town), they ascended the scaffold with firmness, when they joined in prayer with the clergyman, and seemed very penitent. They were then launched into eternity, and, after hanging the usual time, their bodies were given to their friends. Portraits of these characters were sketched while upon their trials, by Mr. Parker, of Newcastle, and also etched by that artist.

September 28.—Died, at South Shields, aged 70 years, Mr. William Wouldhave, a native of North Shields, who had been many years clerk of St. Hilda's chapel, in South Shields. Mr. Wouldhave was distinguished for his eccentricity of manners, and a peculiarly inventive genius. He is said by some to have been the original inventor of the Life Boat, yet was suffered to die poor and neglected. The figure of his proposed Life Boat is cut upon his tomb-stone, and his model of it is suspended to the chain of the chandelier in St. Hilda's chapel. He constructed various curious instruments, amongst which were an organ, a clock, and an electrical machine.

September 28.—Died, in the Dog Bank, Newcastle, Barbara Humble, in her 101st year.

September.—The Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle received from Thomas Coates, esq., of Haydon-bridge, in Northumberland, who had returned overland from India, the valuable present of a very fine Egyptian mummy, in perfect preservation, and of great beauty. During a visit which Mr. C. paid to

Gournou, the burial-place of ancient Thebes, in Upper Egypt, the mummy was dug from its sepulchre by an old Arab. Of him he procured it, and brought it himself to England. When received, it was in the original case or coffin, on the lid of which is carved a very beautiful female face.

1821 (*Sept.*)—This month, the lord bishop of Durham (Barrington) presented an elegant portrait of himself to the Newcastle Infirmary. It is placed at the east end of the hall of that institution, between the portraits of bishop Butler and bishop Benson. The west end is decorated with the portraits of Sir Walter Blackett, bart., by Reynolds; Matthew Ridley, esq., by Webb; and William Ingham, esq., by Nicholson.

October 1.—The Clergy Jubilee school, on the east side of the Carlol Croft, Newcastle, which was erected in commemoration of the bishop of Durham attaining the 50th year of his prelacy, was opened for instruction, and a number of scholars admitted. The Rev. Mr. Vicar, Rev. Mr. Moises, Rev. Mr. Parkin, and the Rev. Mr. Griffith, attended to take the admissions; and the children being all neatly attired, and accompanied by their parents, the sight was truly gratifying. The funds not being sufficient to carry the purpose of the subscribers into full effect, the girls and boys belonging to the old-established Free Schools of St. Nicholas' parish were removed to the new school, and the whole are now taught on Dr. Bell's plan, by one master and mistress.

October 17.—The foundation of a *New Scots Church* for the congregation of the Rev. John Smellie, was laid in a suitable piece of ground, at the western extremity of Northumberland-court, to front into Blackett-street. May 17th, it was opened for divine service, when an impressive sermon was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Hodgson, of Blantyre, in Scotland. As this chapel was not in line with Blackett-street, the original brick front was taken down in the year 1828, and a stone front with pinnacles erected to line with the street.

October 18.—Lambton-park races were first established by John George Lambton, esq. (now Lord Durham), at his seat near Chester-le-street.

October 19.—A serious accident happened at Nesham's colliery, at Newbottle, on the river Wear. One of the brattices erected to close up an old working, having been broken into to obtain more air, a current of choke-damp issued from the perforation, which proved fatal to six of the workmen.

October 23.—A dreadful explosion took place in Wall's-End colliery (Russell's), by which fifty-two men lost their lives. The explosion shook the ground like an earthquake, and made the furniture dance in the surrounding houses. This alarming the neighbourhood, the friends and relatives hurried to the spot, when a heart-rending scene of distress ensued. The greatest exertions were instantly made by Mr. Buddle, the viewer, who as soon as it was practicable, descended with his assistants, when a most melancholy scene presented itself. At the time of the explosion there

were fifty-six men in the pit, of which number four only survived. The bodies of the deceased were most dreadfully scorched, and many of them most strangely distorted. Forty-six of the bodies were buried at Wall's-End, fourteen of whom, being relations, were buried in one grave; some of the remainder were buried at the Ballast-hills, and some at Wall's-End old church, amidst sorrowing spectators.

1821 (*Oct. 23*).—An explosion took place in Felling colliery, by which six human beings were deprived of existence.

November 30.—At night, a tremendous gale commenced at Newcastle and its neighbourhood, which committed great ravages. About three o'clock on the following morning, the chimney of a house in Johnson's chare, in Sandgate, Newcastle, fell through the roof, and a poor old widow, named Elizabeth Robson, 86 years of age, was killed in her bed, by the end of a broken beam falling on her neck. A little boy, her grandson, who lay in the same bed, was happily rescued without injury. Great damage was done in the lower part of the town, as appeared by the quantities of broken bricks and tiles that were lying about the streets and lanes in every direction. One of the wands of St. Ann's mill was broken, and the paling of the miller's garden thrown down. The walls of two new houses building in Bridge-street, opposite Higham-place, were blown down, a great part of which fell inwards upon the joists which were broken to pieces, and the whole exhibited a heap of ruins. In the garden of Hugh Harrison, esq., on the Leazes, several yards of wall, with rails on the top, were blown over. The Methodist chapel at Kenton, which was used as a school, had the roof blown off, and two of the windows blown in. In Gateshead, part of the front of a house fell into the street with great violence. A stack of chimnies fell and broke through the roof of Mrs. Ludlow's house, in the Back-lane, and lodged in the garret, which was fortunately boarded, or the Misses Ludlow, who slept in the room beneath, would probably have been killed. A window in Mr. Price's glass manufactory, fronting the river, was blown in entirely, and forced to the further end of the apartment. By the violence of the hurricane much other damage was done.

December 4.—At a numerous meeting of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, Dr. Clanny, of Sunderland, presented for the purpose of being preserved in their repository, the original safety lamp, as it is described in the *Transactions of the Society of Arts*, for 1813, and which first called the attention of philosophers, and of the proprietors of coal mines, to the subject.

December 10.—At the anniversary of the Royal Academy, the silver medal, with the Discourses of Barry, Opie, and Fuseli, were presented to Mr. Andrew Morton, a native of Newcastle, for the best copy in the school of painting, from a "*Madona and Child*," by Raphael.

December 20.—A spacious and neat chapel built by the congregation under the pastoral charge of the Rev. Israel Craig, was opened for public worship at Lowick, in Northumberland. This is

one of the most ancient, if not the first presbyterian congregation, that was established in the north of England. It was originally formed by the Rev. Luke Ogle, minister of Berwick, who, having resigned his charge there in 1661, in consequence of the act of uniformity, retired to his paternal estate at Bowsdon. His excellent character brought many to hear his ministrations privately; afterwards a chapel was built near to where Barmoor castle now stands. The congregation increasing, a large one was built at Lowick, about the year 1741, which falling to decay, this chapel was erected for the accommodation of that society.

1821 (*Dec. 23*).—Died, at Gateshead, aged 64 years, Mrs. Frances Elizabeth King, relict of the Rev. Richard King, M. A., rector of Worthen, Salop, and of Steeple Mordon, in Cambridgeshire, and third daughter of the late Sir Francis Bernard, bart. This lady was the authoress of several useful and popular works; in particular “*The Beneficial Effects of the Christian Temper on Domestic Happiness*,” “*Female Scripture Characters*,” “*The Rector’s Memorandum Book*,” and a “*Tour in France, in 1802*.” Mrs. King had been during her residence in Gateshead, most actively employed in visiting and relieving the sick and necessitous poor, having established two societies for that purpose; she also founded and supported at her own expense, a Sunday school, at St. Edmund’s chapel, for educating poor children in christian principles. Upon the death of her husband in 1810, Mrs. King retired to Gateshead, near the residence of her two married daughters (Mrs. Collinson, rectory, Gateshead, and Mrs. Baker, rectory, Whitburn).

Same day, and only two or three hours after Mrs. King, died at Usworth-house, aged 70 years, Mrs. Peareth. This is the more remarkable, as this lady was the coadjutor of Mrs. King, in acts of charity and benevolence.

This year an act of parliament was obtained “for making and maintaining a Railway or Tramroad, from the river Tees at Stockton to Witton-park colliery, with several branches therefrom, all in the county of Durham.”

1822 (*Jan. 1*).—The town of Berwick, was first lighted with gas, under the direction and superintendence of Mr. Joseph Glynn, of Newcastle.

January 3.—A most destructive fire took place at Seaton Delaval, which in a few hours consumed the mansion-house, which for grandeur and magnificence was equal to any in the North of England. The two wings, one of which comprised a large and spacious kitchen, with various other apartments; the other a beautiful stable, in a style of princely magnificence, were happily saved by the great and active exertions used in making a separation between them and the house. The fire originated by a fire having been lighted in a room that had not been occupied for some time, and in the chimney a number of jackdaws had built their nests; these took fire and communicated to a beam that supported the roof. The flames burnt with such fury as to bid defiance to all human efforts. The glass in the windows by the intense heat was reduced to a liquid state, and the lead on the roof poured down like water. This

tasteful mansion was built about the beginning of the 18th century, by Sir John Vanburgh. *See May 6th, 1752, vol. i. page 202.*

1822 (*Jan. 21*).—About five o'clock in the evening, an explosion of gas took place in the shop of Mr. Simpson, grocer, Quay-side, Newcastle, occasioned by a candle having been imprudently held near the connecting pipe, which had been injured as was supposed by rats. The shock was very great, and burst the counter, under which the pipe was placed, into splinters, forced twenty squares of glass from the windows and considerably shook the adjoining premises. Mr. Simpson, his boy, and labourer, were all thrown down by the shock.

January 22.—As James Miller, the Warkworth carrier, was coming into Newcastle, seated upon the fore part of his cart, he was shot dead by a musket ball, which entered his head at the right temple, and traversing the brain, was extracted from within the skin behind the left ear. Three young men were that morning *amusing* themselves by shooting at a target placed against the outside of the west wall of the bull-park, on the Town-moor, and it appeared that a shot had been fired which had gone over the wall, ranged the park from west to east, and crossing the turnpike, had struck the unfortunate man, who, in a few minutes after, was found dead on the road, he having fallen from his seat. After a patient investigation of all the circumstances, the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Mr. Thomas Burnet, who had been sworn to as one of the party. At the assizes the jury confirmed the verdict of the inquest, and Mr. Justice Bailey condemned in very severe terms the too frequent practice of firing near public highways, thereby endangering the lives of his majesty's subjects. As this practice was illegal, he enjoined the magistrates and police to be very vigilant in bringing such offenders to justice. From the respectability of the gentlemen who were called to speak to Mr. B's character, he was discharged on entering into recognizances, himself in £100., and four sureties of £50. each for his appearance at the next assizes, then to receive the judgment of the court. He was brought up at the next assizes, and fined £10.

February 2.—A most tempestuous wind, accompanied with heavy rain, began to blow from the south-west, and continued with little intermission till the morning of the following day, when it abated. The rain caused a considerable flood in the rivers Tyne, Wear, and Tees. At Newcastle, the fury of the wind drove the water forward with extraordinary violence, particularly against the bridge over which the spray was carried to a great distance. The low lands to the westward were all flooded. Near Shields, James Watson, a wherryman, was washed out of a boat and drowned, leaving a wife and family. A sailor, belonging to the *Hope*, of North Shields, fell out of a sculler boat, in trying to clear it from a hawser, on which it had been driven and was lost. Another boat was upset, but the persons aboard of it were all fortunately saved. At Sunderland much damage was done by the falling of chimneys, also to the roofs of houses. Many ships and keels in the river were driven from their moorings and much injured by the effects

of the gale, but no lives were lost. At Chester-le-street the Wear was so swelled by the rains, that it extended above the arch of the new bridge, which is more than a quarter of a mile from the channel of the river; the whole intermediate space was a complete sheet of water, by which much injury was sustained. At Durham, a stack of chimneys on the house of Miss Wharton, of the North Bailey, was blown down, and fell through the roof into a room of the upper story, in which were two servant maids, who had a most providential escape from destruction. On hearing a loud rumbling noise, they rushed into a corner of the room, and a moment afterwards the chimneys fell through the ceiling on the floor, at a few inches from the side of a bed where one of them had been sitting. In Claypath, a nail manufacturer was at work, and another man was sitting beside him, both at about a yard's distance from the gable end, which was blown down, but luckily it fell outwards. Much other damage was done to roofs of houses, &c. It was supposed that the river Wear rose twelve feet above its ordinary height; its banks were overflowed, and the low lands completely inundated. Two horses and a cow were seen floating down that river. Great damage was done upon the river Tees, particularly at Yarm.

1822 (*Feb. 15*).—Died, at Blaydon, Mr. J. Morrison, aged 104 years.

February 28.—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Esther Marshall, aged 100 years.

March 3.—A new chapel for the Primitive Methodists or Ranters, was opened for divine service at Darlington, when upwards of 1,000 persons attended, and a collection was made towards the expense of the building, the foundation of which was laid October 16th, 1821, when a sermon was preached on the occasion.

March 5.—Died, at South Shields, Mrs. M. Stanton, aged 101 years.

March 7.—A dreadful fire broke out in the earthenware manufactory of Mr. Wood, at Heworth Shore, near Gateshead, and in spite of the utmost exertions, the whole fabric, excepting Mr. Wood's dwelling-house, was reduced to ashes. Several cottages surrounding the pottery were also burnt down, and great loss of furniture was sustained by the poor inmates.

March 18.—Henry Anderson, a pitman, of Old Painsner, was executed at Durham, pursuant to his sentence, for a rape on Sarah Armstrong. At the fatal tree he addressed the spectators. The unhappy culprit was a married man, but separated from his wife.

March 20.—Mark Lawson, and William Currie, were executed in front of the Gaol Quay, at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentences, for robbing Henry Thompson, upon the highway between Morpeth and Newcastle, on the 7th of the preceding November. They addressed the spectators, admitting the justice of their sentences. Their bodies, after hanging the usual time, were cut down and delivered to their friends, who conveyed them to Alnwick, their native place, for interment. Portraits of these characters were

sketched whilst upon their trials by Mr. Parker, of Newcastle, and etched by that artist.

1822 (*March 23*).—The Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle, Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye, was first opened in Brunswick-place, Northumberland-street, Newcastle, but afterwards removed to Bond-street (now Prudhoe-street), the utility of this institution is evinced by the number of applications for relief, upwards of 7024 having been admitted from its first establishment to March 1831. *Consulting Physician*, Dr. Headlam; *Surgeons*, Mr. T. M. Greenhow and Mr. John Fife; *Matron*, Mrs. Margaret Scott.

March 28.—Died, at Ritton, Northumberland, Mr. Samuel George, aged 100 years. It is remarkable, that after eight years total blindness, he recovered and enjoyed his sight for six years previous to his death.

This month, while Mr. Carr was ploughing in a field in front of Stagshaw House, near Corbridge, he encountered a large flat square stone, which, on being removed, was found to cover the mouth of a cavern about four feet deep, three feet long, and two feet and a-half wide, cut in the native rock. This rude tomb enclosed a small antique urn, composed of clay and sand, uncovered and coarsely ornamented; it contained a few ordinary sized teeth, in perfect preservation; the mouldering remains of a skull; a small heart-shaped amulet of grey slatey stone, perforated for suspension; and a tongue-shaped piece of flint, probably an arrow-head. There was no inscription on the stones; no coins were found, nor any means of ascertaining the date. A neighbouring farm-house retains the name of "*The Chantry*;" whether in any way connected with these remains did not appear.

April 6.—George Wilson, the celebrated pedestrian of Newcastle, then in his 56th year, commenced the performance which he had previously announced, viz.—to walk 90 miles in 24 successive hours, on the town-moor at that place. The spot selected was half-a-mile on the east side of the race ground. He started at twelve o'clock at noon, and concluded his laborious task ten minutes before twelve o'clock on the following day, notwithstanding the night was stormy, and showers of sleet, rain and hail, rendered the ground very slippery. At the conclusion of the feat, the pedestrian carried the box himself among the assembled crowd to receive the gifts of his friends. He was brought into Newcastle in a chaise and four, at the expense of one of his patrons, with colours flying, and the bells greeted his achievement with several merry peals. *See April 16th, 1813, page 72.*

May 7.—The first stone of the New Jerusalem Temple, in Percy-street, Newcastle, was laid in due order. The Rev. James Bradley, the minister, after giving a general statement of their doctrines, performed the usual ceremony; then, standing upon the stone, offered up a prayer that the undertaking might be crowned with success. The names of the subscribers, and a record of the object of the building, hermetically sealed in a glass phial, were deposited in the foundation stone. February 16th, 1823, it was opened for divine

worship, when the Rev. S. Noble, of London, delivered three impressive discourses, illustrative of the doctrines of that church.

1822 (*May 16*).—Mr. Kent exhibited his marine velocipede upon the river Tyne. Being ascension day, and the weather very fine, he fired his musket, and performed a variety of evolutions with much ease and dexterity, to the great delight of a large concourse of spectators. June 3d, Mr. Kent exhibited his apparatus at Sunderland, to at least 20,000 spectators.

May 24.—The Northumberland Flax-mill, at the Ouseburn, near Newcastle, belonging to Messrs. Clarke, Plummer and Co., was discovered to be on fire, supposed to have arisen from a flake of soot flying out of the engine chimney into an open window in a garret, where flax and tow were deposited, which took fire, and were instantly consumed. The manufactured goods in the rooms below were saved, but the flames were not got under until the reeling-room and the machinery therein, with the floors of the garret and store-room were entirely burnt.

Same day, an act for building a new gaol and house of correction in Newcastle, and another act for facilitating the collection of certain tolls payable to the mayor and burgesses of the the same place, received the royal assent.

May 25.—A bull was baited at Cullercoats Sands, near Tynemouth.

May 28.—A bull was baited at Sunderland, when a poor man, named Simon Thornton was thrown down by the crowd, and had his leg broken, of which he afterwards died. Several bull baitings had recently taken place at Sunderland. When will this cruel torture cease? Is there no punishment for wanton cruelty? If so, where are the magistrates? Such exhibitions are the disgrace of the vulgar, and are indications of a barbarous spirit which can only be eradicated by knowledge which rouses the finer feelings, and instils a sense of duty to every animated being.

May 29.—A fire broke out in the Sunderland brewery, belonging to Messrs. Fenwick and Co., which threatened destruction to the building and the neighbouring houses. However, by timely assistance it was got under, but with considerable damage to the interior of the building, and the property therein.

May 31.—In consequence of information to the excise officers of Newcastle, an illicit distillery was discovered in the waste of an old coal mine, in a field near Fenham Hall, adjoining the Town-moor. The mine appeared to be one of the most ancient in that part of the country, and was surrounded by furze and underwood. At the bottom of the shaft, which was gained by a gradual descent of several yards, was a small aperture like the mouth of an oven, which could only be entered by crawling; this led to a large apartment in the mine, wherein were found two stills, with about 200 gallons of wash, and a complete distillery apparatus, valued in all at about £50. It appeared to have been abruptly abandoned for fear of detection. A long chimney, built with brick, conveyed the smoke into the old workings, whence the neighbouring pits had a draught. The coal of the mine supplied the fuel necessary for the work; water was also found upon the spot. As soon as the discovery

was known, hundreds of persons visited the place, many of whom were induced to explore "*The Smuggler's Hole*," as it was now called, and some who ventured into it had to stay much longer than they calculated on. About four o'clock on the morning of the 6th of June, three young men, to gratify their curiosity, ventured in about a mile, it was supposed, from the entrance. They had provided themselves with candles, which they considered sufficient for their purpose; they had, however, proceeded too far, and not having marked their way, were unable to retrace their steps, and their candles being nearly consumed, they were reduced to the necessity of making a fire with a hammer handle (which they had with them for the purpose of knocking off petrifications) and some pieces of coal which they found in the place. As the day advanced their friends became alarmed for their safety, and about twelve o'clock, some pitmen coming to the place, kindly offered their assistance, and, after some time, found the young men, who had been listening with much anxiety to hear the approach of any deliverer. They had not followed these friendly men far, when he who carried the candle stumbled, and they were again in total darkness; and such was the difficulty of their situation, that even with these experienced guides, they were obliged to continue in this dreary cavern several hours longer, when other two pitmen proceeded in, and extricated the whole about half-past four o'clock in the afternoon, the young men having been under ground without any food upwards of twelve hours. The roof and floor of the cavity were covered with very curious petrifications, called stalactites, formed by the drippings of water. Several other persons were liberated by pitmen, so that it became necessary to build up the aperture; but such was the curiosity of the public, that the mason work was soon demolished.

1822 (*June 6*).—Died, at the Grove, near Durham, in his 64th year, Stephen George Kemble, esq., the celebrated comedian, and formerly manager of the theatres-royal of Newcastle, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. Mr. Kemble, who was a very corpulent man, had retired for some years from the exercise of the laborious profession of an actor. In many characters he was confessedly unrivalled; and it is no small commendation, that he was considered by the late Mr. Sheridan to be the best declaimer he had ever heard on or off the stage. He was also possessed of considerable literary talents, having wrote various addresses, songs, &c. &c. which appeared from time to time in different journals. Mr. Kemble published, "*Odes, Lyrical Ballads, and Poems*," 8vo. 1809, with a portrait. June 11th, his remains were interred in the chapel of the Nine Altars, at the east end of Durham cathedral, on the north side of the shrine of St. Cuthbert.

July 9.—Died, in All Saints' poor-house, Newcastle, Benjamin Starkey, in his 65th year. This eccentric, well known by the name of *Captain Starkey*, being a free burgess, was for some time an inmate of the Freeman's hospital, in the Manor Chare, but previous to his death had been removed to the poor-house. Mr. Starkey, who was uncommonly polite, had a peculiar smooth

method of obtaining the *loan* of a halfpenny, and for which he was always ready to give his promissory note, which his creditors held as curiosities. His memoirs, written by himself, with a portrait and fac-simile of his hand-writing, were published in Newcastle, in 1818. A portrait, &c. of Mr. Starkey, may be had of John Sykes.

1822 (*July*).—The workmen employed in digging for the foundation of a new gaol at Morpeth, found, at the depth of thirteen feet from the surface, an oak tree, measuring thirty-eight feet, and nine feet in circumference, and perfectly sound. The skeleton of a deer's head, with fine branching horns, was also found at the same place.

July 11.—An adjournment of the general quarter sessions of the peace for the county of Northumberland, was held at Morpeth, for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the new gaol, house of correction, and sessions-house at Morpeth. About twelve o'clock, his grace the duke of Northumberland, lord-lieutenant and custos rotulorum of the county, arrived at Mrs. Sunderland's, the Queen's Head inn, when, soon afterwards, the procession proceeded in due form to the site of the intended building. On arriving at the spot, the various coins of his Majesty George IV. were placed in a glass vase, as also three beautiful coronation medals of gold, silver, and bronze, and a brass plate with a suitable inscription, were deposited in a cavity cut in the stone to receive them. A large and massy stone of one ton weight was then raised, and being lowered to its proper place, was adjusted and laid by his grace in the usual form. The silver trowel was presented to his grace by the chairman, Thomas Clennell, esq., at the same time addressing his lordship in very appropriate terms. The duke then returned thanks to the numerous assemblage present, and to the magistrates in particular, for the compliment paid him in inviting him to lay the stone—that he always was particularly attentive to every wish to serve the county—that it gave him great pleasure to attend, as far as possible, to their wishes at all times—that he felt the greatest pleasure in learning from the chairman of the county, that the calendar for the ensuing assizes was only deformed by one capital offence, a great proof of the good morals of the county—and he was happy to say, he observed an increasing prosperity in the county at large. He concluded by trusting, that when the building was finished, it would be the only house in the county unoccupied. There was a large assemblage of ladies, filling a temporary gallery purposely erected for their accommodation, and well situated for a general view of the ceremony. Mr. John Dobson, of Newcastle, was the architect. December 15th, 1828, the prisoners in the old gaol were removed to the new erection.

July 25.—Died, in London, Mr. John Emery, the celebrated actor, aged 45 years. Mr. Emery was a native of Sunderland, and was educated at Ecclesfield, in Yorkshire, where he doubtless acquired that knowledge of the dialect which obtained him so much celebrity. He may be said to have been born an actor, both his parents having followed that profession with some degree of provincial fame. In parts designedly written for him, he had no com-

petitor; and Tyke (*School of Reform*) and Giles (*Miller's Maid*), in parts of which his acting was truly terrific and appalling, will long be remembered. Besides his histrionic powers, he was an excellent musician, a poet, and a painter: his drawings of coast scenery particularly, being much admired, and when offered for sale fetching high prices.

1822 (*July 25*).—Robert Russell, of Newcastle, undertook to walk 101 miles in twenty-four successive hours, and completed this arduous-task four minutes within the time. The spot chosen for this feat was the ground whereon George Wilson had exhibited. This was Russell's first pedestrian essay. He afterwards walked at Edinburgh, and various other places. Numerous were the pedestrians at this time (some walking backwards), of which to give a detail would be quite uninteresting.

July.—A labourer who was employed winning stones in Stob-cross-field, in the estate of Thrislington, in the parish of Bishop-Middleham, Durham, turned up with his pick-axe some broad lime-stone flags, scarcely 18 inches below the surface, and discovered lying beneath them a perfect human skeleton. On the right side, near the hip bone, lay the iron head apparently of a lance or javelin. This first discovery was on the highest ground of the field. Another skeleton was found about 20 yards to the north-west, with a smaller lance head, also of iron. Eight or nine other sepulchres containing human bones, were afterwards opened at various distances, but all apparently gathered round the crown of the field, where perhaps lay the chieftain of the race: in none of these were found any implement either of war or peace. The mode of sepulture was uniform and simple. The soil and marle, or soft lime-stone, had been cleared away to the depth of about two feet, and the skeleton lay on the level marle. On each side a row of large round stones was arranged, and on these were supported broad flags of lime-stone, which covered the deposit. The distance and regularity of the graves seem to forbid the supposition of their tenants having fallen in battle, but that it was the family burial-place of some early Saxon owner of the soil, before the conversion of his tribe to Christianity. In one deposit there were the remains either of a female or a very young person; in another, the bones of a horse, and also some smaller animal, perhaps a dog, were found mingled with human remains. The graves were not dug east and west, but in various directions. The larger lance head measured nearly eight inches in length, and a little above one inch in diameter; the smaller, seven inches by nearly one inch in diameter. The teeth of the two skeletons near which the lance heads were found were quite perfect. Some small portions of wood were adhering to the larger lance head.

July.—The owners of Hetton colliery having occasion to make a reservoir for water at the summit of Warden Law, a hill of considerable altitude in the county of Durham, at the depth of ten feet, the workmen discovered an oak tree, which measured seventy feet long, three feet in diameter at one end, and two feet at the

other. The branches extended thirty feet further, which made the whole length one hundred feet. The workmen bored down ten feet further, and found nothing but wood, but it was not dug out. A large quantity of nuts and nut-bushes was found, the former were very perfect. About the same time, as some quarrymen were laying bare a quarry belonging to the same owners, they discovered a human skeleton about three feet below the surface, with an old-fashioned button and two breeches knee-buckles, which had probably been worn by the deceased.

1822 (*Aug. 6*).—At a meeting of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, it was agreed to purchase the celebrated Wycliffe museum, late in the possession of George Allan, esq., of the Grange, which was to have been sold by public auction, but which had been purchased entire by private contract (for the purpose of offering to the society), by G. T. Fox, esq., of Westoe, and some other spirited individuals. The thanks of the society were also voted to Mr. Fox, for the liberal manner in which he had accommodated the society in the conditions of the purchase. The collection contains nearly a complete list of British birds, more especially all the rarer kinds, with a very valuable selection of foreign birds, together with a curious collection of insects, shells, reptiles, minerals, and a great variety of miscellaneous curiosities. The preceding year Dr. Clanny, of Sunderland, presented to this society a very fine collection of insects made at the Cape of Good Hope by C. Colcleugh, esq., which is so much the more interesting to the entomologist, as it is understood to be complete. These form a valuable addition to the beautiful collection from Demerara, which had been presented to the society some time before by Major George Anderson, of Newcastle, and which were afterwards scientifically arranged by G. T. Fox, esq.

August 8.—A spermaceti whale (a native of the South Seas) came on shore on the Northumberland coast, near Cresswell. Its length from the tail to the nose end was 63 feet. The oil (9 tons and 158 gallons) of this fish having become a matter of dispute between two great landholders, it was taken possession of on behalf of the crown, by a special direction from the admiralty, September 16th, 1822. August 11th, being Sunday, and a very fine day, a great number of people went out to sea in steam-boats, small boats, &c., expecting to see his majesty king George IV., in his royal yacht, pass Tynemouth for Edinburgh: of this they were disappointed, but many availed themselves of seeing this "*king of the sea*," as it lay upon the beach. The village of Cresswell was crowded on this occasion.

August 9.—Robert Peat, of Ravensworth, near Richmond, aged 50 years, was executed in front of the county courts at Durham, pursuant to his sentence, for poisoning, by putting a quantity of laudanum into the broth of a relation named Robert Peat, at Darlington, from whom he had stolen his will.

August 13.—On the morning, after very tempestuous weather, the wind blowing with great violence from the W. S. W., and a

good deal of sea getting up, the commodore felt it his duty to advise his majesty King George IV. (then on his voyage to Scotland) to anchor for shelter in Berwick roads, which was accordingly done at 9 A. M., the Royal Sovereign Yacht being in company. During the stay of the royal squadron in the roads, a loyal address from the inhabitants of Berwick was sent off, which was read to his majesty at the palace of Holyrood, and which was most graciously received.

1822 (*Aug. 30*).—His royal highness the duke of Sussex visited the city of Durham, where a Masonic Provincial Grand Lodge was held to receive him. A splendid procession took place, during which his royal highness was loudly cheered. He afterwards dined with the masons in their hall. On the following day his royal highness proceeded to Sunderland, by the river Wear, in company with Mr. Lambton, in that gentleman's barge. The ships in the harbour were decorated with flags, and the people loudly cheered him. On entering the carriage that awaited his arrival, the populace took the horses out, and drew him to the house of A. Fenwick, esq., where he partook of a cold collation. Previous to leaving Sunderland, his royal highness addressed the crowd, and thanked them for the kind reception with which they had honoured him.—September 2d, his royal highness honoured Newcastle with his presence, in order to lay the foundation stone of the new building for the Literary and Philosophical Society in Westgate-street. At noon, his royal highness, in Mr. Lambton's carriage, drawn by six horses, accompanied by Lady Louisa Lambton, Mr. Lambton, and Mr. Stephenson, reached Gateshead toll-bar, his suite following in other carriages, when the populace took out the horses, and drew the royal visitor down Gateshead, amidst the cheering of the multitude assembled on the occasion; his royal highness returned their salutes with great affability. On the arrival of the cavalcade at Tyne Bridge, he was met by Alfred Hall, esq., sheriff of Newcastle, accompanied by a number of gentlemen, who welcomed the royal visitor on his entrance into that ancient and loyal town, to which he made a suitable reply. A salute of 21 guns was at this time fired from the castle, whilst the bridge for some minutes exhibited one solid mass of carriages and people. Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., and Cuthbert Ellison, esq., the members for the town (who had accompanied the sheriff to pay their respects to his royal highness), got up in front of the carriage to usher in the duke; and Sir Matthew addressed the populace, insisting that the people of Newcastle should now have the honour of drawing his royal highness, as he had passed the limits of the county of Durham. This was immediately done, and they proceeded to the Mansion-house, when an address, previously voted to the noble duke by the common council, was read by the recorder, after which his royal highness was presented with the freedom of the town. The company then sat down to a cold collation. An especial Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of England was held at the Concert-room in the Bigg Market. Between one and two o'clock, the different

lodges, in their official badges, accompanied by the insignia of their fraternity, proceeded in grand procession to the Mansion-house, and marched thence to the site of the building, which it reached a little before three o'clock. His royal highness took possession of a throne prepared for him; Sir M. W. Ridley, bart. sat on his right hand, and J. G. Lambton, esq. on his left. The masonic ceremony of laying the stone then took place, amid the loud cheering of a great assemblage of people, who had been admitted by tickets, and for whose accommodation a secure scaffolding had been erected. A plate, with a suitable inscription, and an elegantly-cut glass vase (which was presented for that purpose by Mr. Joseph Price), containing the coins of the reign of George IV., were deposited in a cavity in the stone. The large Assembly-room having been liberally granted by the committee of proprietors for the accommodation of his royal highness, nearly three hundred gentlemen assembled in it to dinner, about five o'clock, Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., in the chair. About nine o'clock, the duke took his leave, and proceeded with Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., to Blagdon. September 4th, his royal highness passed through Alnwick, on his way to Earl Grey's seat at Howick. A great concourse of people assembled to receive the royal visitor, and his carriage was drawn through the town by the populace, amid enthusiastic cheers, the waving of handkerchiefs, and the firing of cannon. His royal highness was very affable, and extremely pleased with the kind, hospitable, and enthusiastic reception with which he had been greeted during his visit to the north. September 9th, his royal highness passed through Newcastle on his way to Raby castle, whither he arrived the same day, on a visit to the earl of Darlington.

1822 (*Sept. 10*).—Died at her house, in Union-street, Newcastle, after a short illness, Mrs. Sarah Hodgson, in her 63d year, printer and proprietor of the *Newcastle Chronicle*, by which event society suffered the loss of an upright and useful member; the place of her residence, an enlightened and indefatigable manager of several of its charitable institutions, particularly of the Lying-in Hospital; her family, an affectionate and judicious parent; and an extensive circle, a most warm-hearted and active friend. September 15th, 1822, a funeral sermon, on occasion of the lamented death of Mrs. Hodgson, was preached in Hanover-square chapel, by the Rev. William Turner.

September 23.—The first annual exhibition of the Northumberland institution for the promotion of the fine arts, took place in the rooms which had been prepared for the purpose, by Mr. T. M. Richardson, in Brunswick-place, Newcastle, and many capital pictures from artists of first rate talent were exposed to public view. This exhibition continued annually until the Northern Academy of Arts was built in Blakett-street. *See June 11th, 1828.*

September 27.—Died at Low Farnham, Northumberland, Mrs. Catherine Green, aged 102 years.

October 9.—Died, at Cullercoats, near Tynemouth, William Mills, aged 101 years

1822 (*Oct. 24*).—In addition to the inconvenience arising from the strike of the keelmen on the Tyne, a number of seamen proceeded from Shields up the river in boats, and took the crews from some of the vessels which were loading at the spouts. The mayor, of Newcastle, Robert Bell, esq., proceeded down the river, in his barge, with a party of the volunteers and police, and took thirty-two of the rioters into custody, and carried them down to the Low Lights, at Shields, when thirty were put aboard the king's cutter. A mob assembled on the sands, and demanded the liberation of the prisoners, which was refused, and the riot act was read by a Northumberland magistrate, soon after which the crowd dispersed. On the following day the prisoners were conveyed from the cutter in carts, under a strong military guard to the Castle of Newcastle, to which place a number of refractory seamen, &c., followed the prisoners. Previous to their arrival, all the avenues leading to the castle were guarded by parties of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer cavalry, and dismounted troop, to prevent the admission of the anticipated crowd, and a powerful phalanx was placed in front of the castle gates. On the arrival of the party in the Castle-garth, the conduct of the mob was so outrageous, that the riot act was read by the right worshipful the mayor, and two of the ringleaders were taken into custody, one of whom was recognized as having been very active at Shields, while the prisoners were conveyed from the cutter to the carts. A military guard remained all night at the castle.

October 29.—Died, suddenly at his house, Villiers-street, Bishopwearmouth, aged 72 years, T. Collingwood, esq. M. D., member of the Medical Society, London; Board of Agriculture, and several other learned institutions, many of which owe their origin to him. Dr. Collingwood was born at Bates' Cross, near Berwick, on the 7th of July, 1751, and was lineally descended from Sir David Collingwood, of Brandon, a branch of the ancient and renowned Collingwoods, of Northumberland. As an agriculturist and mathematician he ranked high; his communications with the board on rural affairs were much esteemed; indeed, in a literary point of view, his productions were varied and numerous. Medicine, poetry, agriculture, and even the drama, at times employed his pen.

November 2.—Half yearly statute hirings for farmers' servants were established in Sunderland, to be held on the first and second Saturdays in November, and the first and second Saturdays in May, in every year. The first was held on the above day.

November 5.—A cattle-market was established in Sunderland, to be held fortnightly on the Tuesday.

November 18.—The Hetton coal company effected the first shipment of coals at their newly-erected staith on the banks of the river Wear at Sunderland. The waggon-way, which extends over a space of eight miles from the colliery to the river, and in its course crosses Warden Law (one of the highest hills in this part of the country), was crowded with spectators to witness the first operations of the powerful and ingenious machinery employed for

conveying the coal-waggons. Five of Mr. George Stephenson's patent travelling engines, two sixty horse power fixed reciprocating engines, and five self-acting inclined planes (all under the direction of Mr. Robert Stephenson, the company's resident engineer) simultaneously performing their various and complicated offices, with a precision and exactness of the most simple machinery, exhibited a spectacle at once interesting to science, and encouraging to commerce. After the business of the day, the owners of the colliery, with about fifty of their friends, dined at Miss Jowsey's, the Bridge inn, Bishopwearmouth.

1822 (*Nov.*).—This month, about a mile south of Whitburn, in the county of Durham, the sand having been removed by the tide, the stumps of seven trees were seen at about one hundred yards in the sea, measuring from high-water mark. The largest was described as about six feet in diameter, and was clearly in the situation in which it had grown. There was a considerable accumulation of vegetable matter round them, containing leaves, nuts, and broken pieces of branches; next below this was a light blue clay, in which the trees appeared to have grown.

December 10.—The beginning of this month, the keelmen of the Tyne resumed their labours, after a suspension of about ten weeks, under alleged grievances which the coal owners had determined to resist. At periods during the *stick* they were very refractory, but by the vigilance of the navy and military employed, together with the prompt assistance of the magistracy, their turbulence was suppressed. The Swan cutter was moored on the south side of the river, opposite to Newcastle Quay, and fired her morning and evening gun. This was supposed to be the only instance of a ship of war having been so far up the Tyne since the rebellion in 1745–6, when troops were landed at Newcastle from king's ships. In consequence of the restoration of order, the mayor conveyed the thanks of the civil authorities, on the above day, to the officers, seamen, and marines of his majesty's ships the *Egeria*, *Nimrod*, and *Swan*, previous to their departure from the port, the acknowledgments of the civil authorities, and of the gentlemen interested in the coal trade were likewise conveyed to Lieut. Col. Holmes, 3d dragoon guards; Lieut. Col. Brandling, of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer cavalry, and the Hon. Captain Liddell, of the Ravensworth cavalry, for their services in support of the civil power, and the exemplary conduct of the troops under their command.

December 25.—The new Presbyterian church, in Clavering-place, Newcastle (the Rev. James Pringle, pastor), was opened for divine service. The Rev. J. Mitchell, D.D. of Andersten, Glasgow, and the Rev. J. McGilchrist, of Dunse, officiated on the occasion, Mr. Pringle being absent on a mission to Gibraltar.

This year, a stone bridge, eighty feet in length, and twenty-eight feet in breadth, was built over Dipton-burn, in Northumberland. This brook, after rains, was frequently very hazardous to pass.

A neat stone edifice for a school-house, was this year, erected in the village of Newburn, by the duke of Northumberland.

1822.—This year, Bond-street, now Prudhoe-street, in Newcastle, was formed.

Carloli Tower, in Bridge-street, Newcastle, being part of the town wall, was this year altered and repaired :—Robert Belt, and John Pitt Scott, stewards. This is the meeting-house of the company of free weavers. *See January 2d, 1746, vol. i. page 186.*

1823 (*Jan. 3*).—Mr. Charlton, surgeon, of Wylam, having at a late hour been called upon in haste to give his attendance at Ovingham, borrowed a spirited horse of a friend, that he might proceed with the least possible delay. He had not gone above half a mile, when he perceived his horse stumble, and he immediately threw himself from the saddle. It was fortunate he did so, for the next instant his horse had fallen down a precipice of nearly seventy feet, and, incredible as it may seem, the animal sustained no injury, but immediately dashed into the Tyne, and swam to the opposite side. Search was made after him, and hearing his master's voice, he was heard to neigh even across the water in token of recognition, and was ultimately restored without either speck or blemish.

January 4.—The paper-mill of Mr. B. Ord, at Moorsley Banks, near Durham, took fire, owing to that part of the machinery which is called "*The Devil*," and is used in tearing rags, preparatory to their being converted into paper, having, from the great heat caused by its rapid motion, become ignited. An old man named Miller, who was left in the care of the mill for the night, gave the alarm, and Mr. Ord and his workmen, who resided on the premises, having been roused from their beds, proceeded to arrest the progress of the flames, and, after considerable exertion, succeeded in getting the fire under, but not until considerable damage had been done. The old man afterwards died of the injury he received by the machinery in endeavouring to extinguish the fire before he gave the alarm.

January 10.—A fire broke out in the dwelling-house of John Walker, esq., at Westgate-hill, near Newcastle, by which the back parts of the premises were entirely consumed. It originated in a lodging room, from the rushlight setting fire to the bed curtains.

January 11.—Died, in Newcastle, in the 70th year of his age, Robert Doubleday, esq., a most active and enlightened member of society. For twenty-six years he filled the office of vice-president and chairman of the monthly meetings of the Literary and Philosophical Society of that town, and for nearly half a century discharged the duties of secretary to the Dispensary. He was, besides, secretary to the Fever Hospital, and the Lying-in charity, chairman of the committee of the Royal Jubilee School, and a director of the Savings' Bank. His humane and liberal disposition rendered him zealous in the discharge of the duties of these offices, and anxious, by every means in his power, to promote the interests of these several institutions. There is a fine portrait of Mr. Doubleday published by Mr. Charnley.

January 17.—Died, in London, in his 72d year, George Edwards, esq., M. D., author of several works on political economy.

Mr. Edwards was a native of Barnardcastle, in the county of Durham.

1823 (*Jan 20*).—The workmen commenced pulling down the *Maison de Dieu*, built in 1412, over which was the Merchants' Court, at the east end of the Guildhall, Newcastle, for the purpose of building a new hall for the company of Free Merchants, and underneath a fish-market. Besides being a great ornament to the east end of the Guildhall, it has removed a nuisance (the fish stalls) from the Sandhill, and has also widened the entrance to the Quay, which before was inconveniently narrow for the constant traffic in that part. In digging for a foundation for the new building, part of the foundation of the town's-wall, which had extended along the Quay, was removed by blasting, in doing which, at the depth of about twelve feet from the surface, a mason's chisel was taken out of the centre of the old wall, and which must have remained there from its first building, which Hardinge attributes to William Rufus, who began his reign in the year 1087, and ended it in the year 1100. This chisel is in the possession of John Sykes.

January 27.—Died, at his house, in Bedford-row, London, in the 86th year of his age, the celebrated Charles Hutton, LL. D., F. R. S., and for upwards of forty years professor of mathematics in the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. Dr. Hutton was born in Percy-street, Newcastle. Like many others, he was entirely a self-taught mathematician. In the years 1755 and 1756, Charles Hutton (whose father was employed in the collieries) worked as a hewer in Old Long Benton colliery, but a lameness in his arm, from an accident when young, rendering him unfit for so laborious an employment; he opened a school in the village of Jesmond, but afterwards removing to Newcastle, he taught with great reputation till 1773, when on the 29th of May that year he was appointed by the Board of Ordnance to the professorship of mathematics in the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, in the room of Mr. Cowley, superannuated. He was elected from a number of candidates, after a strict examination of several days. The following year Mr. Hutton was elected a fellow of the Royal Society. In 1770 he published in Newcastle, his "*Treatise on Mensuration*, 4to., dedicated to his grace the duke of Northumberland. The celebrated Mr. Thomas Bewick, then an apprentice to Mr. Beilby, commenced his career as a wood-engraver, by engraving the mathematical diagrams for this work. His publications were very numerous, and have nearly all become standard works in the mathematical seminaries. The beautiful marble bust of him, executed by Gahagan, and which had been presented to himself, September 21st, 1822. by a committee of the subscribers, he bequeathed to the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle. After the expenses of the bust were paid, a considerable surplus remained on hand, with this the committee agreed to engrave a die for striking off medals (one of which to be given in a case to each subscriber), to contain on the *obverse* the head of Dr. Hutton in profile, with an appropriate legend—on the *reverse*, emblems of two philosophical discoveries by

him; the one on the density of the earth, and the other on the exact force or strength of gunpowder, with an appropriate *motto*.—Mrs. Hutton died at Jesmond, near Newcastle, May 26th, 1785.

1823 (*Jan. and Feb.*).—Northumberland and Durham were visited by a dreadful snow storm, which, drifting into immense heaps, prevented the ordinary intercourse of business, as travelling in any shape was impracticable. The various stage coaches were of course detained at Newcastle. For a whole week, the north and west mails neither reached nor were despatched from that town. On Gateshead-fell the snow was so drifted, as in one place to be level with the top of a two-story house, and here the guard of the London mail must have perished, but for the timely assistance of some pitmen, who brought forward the letter bags on their backs. So great was the fall of snow north of Newcastle, that the mail coach got so completely fixed in it, near Swarland, that it was obliged to be abandoned, after which, it was so rapidly covered with snow, and so buried, as to leave no trace of the place where it was, until after many days' thaw, when the top became visible. The west turnpike, near Newcastle, was also completely drifted up, and when cut through, exhibited a very singular appearance, as the *snow dyke* stood in many places twelve and fourteen feet high. Newcastle, on some of the market days during this *snow blockade*, exhibited no greater bustle than on the ordinary days. On one day during the storm, the mails were despatched to the north on thirteen saddle horses, the novelty of which excited considerable interest. Travellers were detained at many country places till all the provisions at the inns were exhausted. Sir Carnaby Haggerston, bart., hospitably entertained a large party of strangers in this predicament, at his seat at Haggerston, in Northumberland. Great damage was done to the shipping, many being wrecked near Bamborough. At Durham the snow began to fall, January 11th, accompanied by a dense fog. On the 28th, some signs of a change appeared, and on the 29th, the ice on the river Wear began to give way, but on Saturday the 31st, another heavy fall of snow commenced, and continued almost incessantly for three days. The roads in every direction were entirely blown up, and from Sunday, February 2d, till the following Sunday, neither the mail nor any of the other coaches reached Durham, either from the north or the south. The London mail reached Darlington regularly, and Rushyford with some difficulty, from thence the bags were forwarded on horseback. February 2d, the Highflyer and Telegraph stuck fast in the drift on the height of Butcher-Race, and on Friday the 7th, the mail and another coach were stopped at the same place; ten horses were applied to the mail in vain, and within half an hour after, both coaches were completely covered by a snow wreath, and remained so for two days. On Sunday, February the 9th, the mail from the south arrived in Durham, drawn by six horses, and the same day the north mail, which had been detained in Durham for a week, reached Newcastle with great difficulty. The storm, which continued for about six weeks, was far more severe than that of 1814.

1823 (*Feb. 2*).—Died, in St. Nicholas' poor-house, in Newcastle, Mr. James Ilderton, aged 100 years.

February 12.—At three o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in the lead manufactory of Locke, Blackett, and Co., in Gallowgate, Newcastle, which at first had a very alarming appearance ; but by the assistance of the engines of the Newcastle Fire-office, and those from the barracks, it was got under before six o'clock. The fire was confined to the red-lead house, where it commenced, the roof of which was burnt off, and two other roofs slightly injured.

February 19.—A most melancholy accident occurred in the Theatre-royal, Newcastle. The piece of "*Tom and Jerry*," which had been the source of great attraction, had proceeded towards the second scene of the first act, when it was discovered that some gas had escaped from a pipe in the lower tier of boxes, which soon became more obvious by smoke and flame penetrating through the crevices into the gallery. The fire was almost instantly extinguished ; but the cries of "Fire, fire—save your lives !" produced so great an alarm, that all attempts to inspire confidence, or dissipate apprehensions of danger, were unavailing. Mr. De Camp, the manager, did every thing in his power to prevent the dreadful consequences which ensued, and it must be admitted that the calamity would have been more deplorable but for his exertions. The people rushed to the stairs, and before the check-taker could open the second barrier downwards, the space was completely blocked up. The shrieks of women, and the agonizing cries of the suffering and helpless, were truly heart-rending. Some were trampled to death, and others died from suffocation. The following is a list of those who actually perished :—Mrs. Robson, wife of Mr. Riddell Robson, builder, Westgate-street ; Mary Johnson, aged 16 years, milliner, of the Manor-chare ; Isabella Parkinson, aged 11 years, adopted child of Mrs. Green, Pilgrim-street ; Thomas Handyside, aged 20 years, son of Mr. Cuthbert Handyside, bookbinder ; and John Jonathan Wilkinson, son of Mr. Wilkinson, veterinary surgeon, Pilgrim-street, all of Newcastle. Dorothy Heaton, aged 17 years, daughter of Mr. George Heaton, tailor ; and Mr. John Edwards, both of Gateshead. The check-taker had opened the upper barrier, and in his endeavours to open the second, as above stated, was thrown down the stairs. It was thought fortunate that he did not succeed, or the mischief would have been more dreadful, by a large body of people being dashed down the steep stairs below the barrier. Besides the seven persons killed, numbers were seriously bruised and injured. Mrs. Robson was killed in the arms of her husband, who was himself much hurt.

1823 (*Feb. 20*).—Died, at North Shields, Mr. Henry Taylor. He was born at Whitby, and was one of the early friends of the celebrated Captain Cook, that enterprising and ill-fated mariner. Possessed of a very active and intelligent mind, he projected and assisted in placing many of the floating lights on the British coast, particularly those on Hasboro' Gat, the Godwin and Sunk Sands. He was the author of "*Instructions for Mariners respecting the*

Management of Ships at Single Anchor, &c." a very useful work, and which has gone through several editions. Mr. Taylor also gave to the public his own life, under the title of "*Memoirs of the principal Events in the Life of Henry Taylor, of North Shields.*" 8vo. 1811. This "*Sailors' Friend*," like most great geniuses, was often neglected, and it was not till late in life that he received any permanent reward from the Trinity-house, London. The corporation of Newcastle presented him with an hundred pounds, and the Trinity-house of the same place with fifty pounds. He died universally respected, and being a member of the Society of Friends, he was interred at their burial-ground at North Shields; numbers of Friends and shipowners attended his remains to the grave.

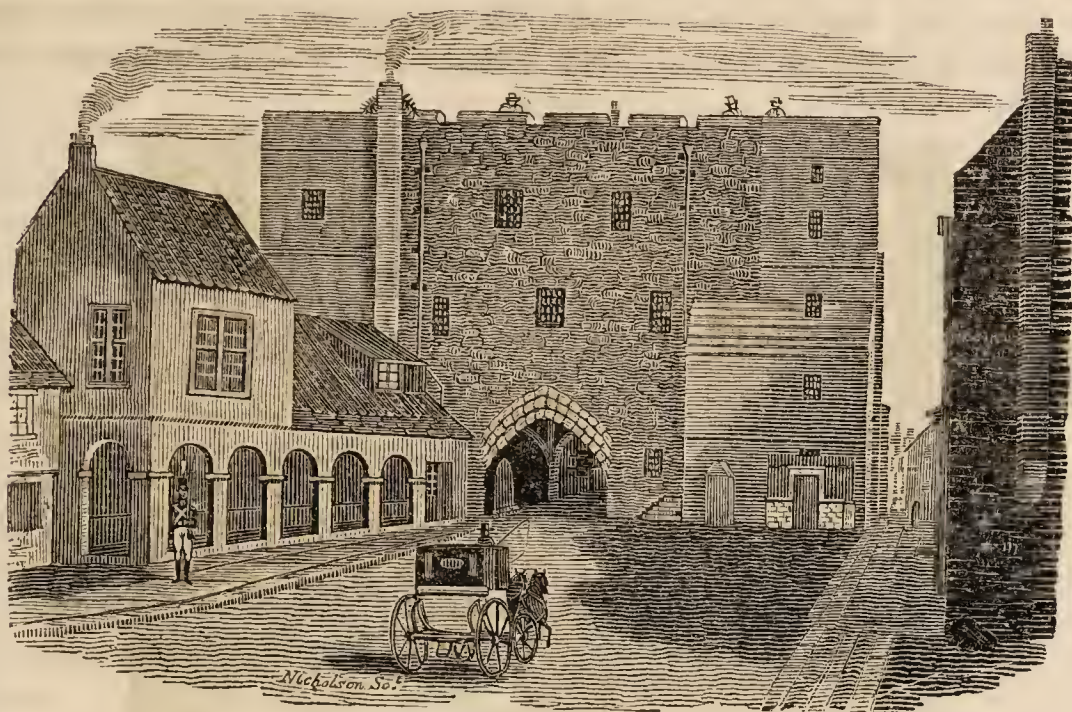
February 21.—An explosion of inflammable air took place in Ouston colliery, near Chester-le-street, by which four men were killed, and two severely burnt.

March 3.—A most violent gale of wind was experienced in Newcastle and its neighbourhood, which damaged many roofs of houses, and blew down chimneys; trees were also torn up by the roots. Three of the vanes on the small pinnacles of St. Nicholas' church steeple were blown down, and part of the fine but decayed tracery in the large Gothic window, in the north transept of that church, was blown out. The four pinnacles of the new church at Heworth were blown off, and two of them passed through the roof. At North Shields, the family of Dr. Oxley were thrown into great alarm by a stack of chimneys falling through the skylight, and breaking in the floors. Happily no injury was sustained.

March 20.—A most splendid fancy dress ball and supper was given by the gentlemen bachelors of Newcastle (47) to the ladies and gentlemen in that town and neighbourhood, which took place at the Assembly-rooms, when 467 ladies and gentlemen, attired in all the splendour, brilliancy, and variety, that taste could devise or money purchase, crowded the suite of apartments. The assemblage presented a view of all the dresses of Europe, ancient and modern, and of many of those of the other quarters of the globe. So splendid an entertainment was never before seen in Newcastle.

1823 (*April 2*).—Workmen began to pull down the north part of the gaol of Newgate, one of the gates of the town's wall, Newcastle; and on the 10th, the stone statue of King James I., which stood over the north entrance, was removed from its stand, and conveyed to the castle: it was much broken in its removal. Newgate, which appears to have been built upon the site of an older one called Berwick-gate, had been the common gaol of Newcastle since the year 1400, when that town was made a county of itself, and took custody of its own prisoners. *See May 23d, 1400, vol. i. page 55.* The additional wings or flanks on each side of the south front of this structure were added, the one in the year 1702, William Ramsay, esq. mayor, William Boutflower, esq. sheriff; the other in the year 1706, Sir Ralph Carr, mayor, William Ellison, esq., sheriff.—On the pulling down of Newgate, the felons belonging to

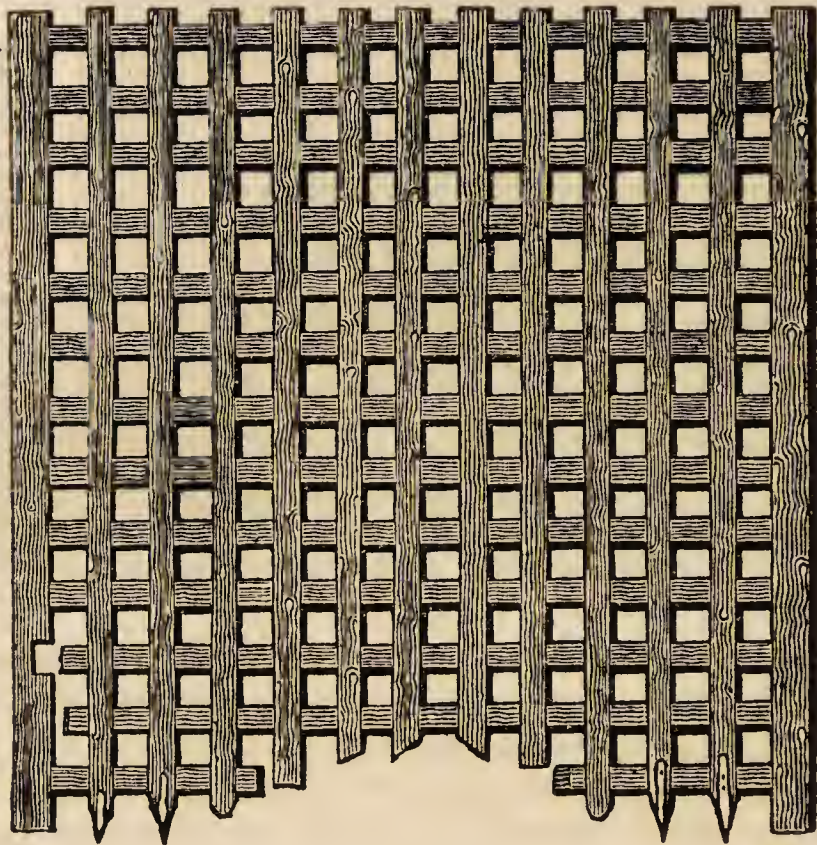
Newcastle were confined in the cells of the County Courts, and the debtors in the Castle, until the completion of the new prisons in Carlisle-street.



The above wood cut shews the south front of Newgate, with the guard-house adjoining its west wing, and the footway which was opened through the town's wall, on the east side, in the year 1765, for the convenience of the public. The gaoler's house stood opposite to the east end. June 1823, the east wing was commenced being pulled down, which was followed by the removal of the west wing. The old building being then isolated, it presented the appearance as shewn in the following wood cut.



In this state it remained until September 18th, when it was commenced being pulled down. During the demolition, several large cannon balls were found deep sunk in the wall. These had been fired during the siege by the Scots. Parts of the walls were so firm that they had to be blasted with gunpowder, whilst other parts exhibited a heap of ruins. The portcullis, which remained here



until the final demolition of the gate, was the last existing one in Newcastle. It was of oak, the spikes shod with iron. Altogether it was of a tremendous weight. It was suspended in a groove, with the spikes reaching below the top of the arch of the gateway; the centre spikes had been sawn away, to correspond with the arch. It is now at Blagdon. That this gateway had been dangerous, and inconveniently narrow for the traffic of the town, is shewn by the following serious accidents:—November 10th, 1776, in the evening, two chaises met in the passage under Newgate, and, being very dark, ran foul of each other, when the pole of that coming into town, struck the near horse's breast in the other, and wounded him so much that he died soon after from the effusion of blood, though not before he had run four miles, when he dropped down dead under the driver, who had not discovered the bleeding.—April 8th, 1797, as a loaded cart was passing through Newgate, it was met by a waggon, which together so completely choaked up the road, that an amiable young man of the name of Russell, son of Mr. John Russell, Morpeth carrier, going through at the same time, was unfortunately jammed against the wall with such violence, that he expired soon after. These shew the necessity of its removal, though a *jeu d'esprit* or two were written at the time, urging the necessity (in an antiquarian point of view) of its being

suffered to remain. *For the appearance of the original north front of this structure, after the wings and additional north building were removed, see vol. i. page 16.*

1823 (*May 20*).—The foundation stone of a United Secession church was laid in Carliol-street, Newcastle, by the Rev. Mr. Gillan, who addressed the audience previous to the stone being deposited, and concluded the ceremony with an impressive prayer.—December 25th, 1823, it was opened for divine worship with three excellent discourses, by the Rev. J. Harper, of Leith, and the Rev. R. Hunter, of Carlisle, when collections to the amount of £22. 6s. 10d. were made in aid of the funds.

May.—The Society of Arts presented the large silver medal to Mr. Henry Marshall, of Newcastle, for his improved melting pots for brass-founders and steel-makers.

June 4.—The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a new gaol and house of correction in Carliol-street, Newcastle, took place at two o'clock in the afternoon. Robert Bell, esq., mayor, preceded by the regalia of the corporation, and accompanied by the recorder, aldermen, and sheriff, and the commissioners representing the four parishes, viz.:—Mr. William Coates and Mr. Francis Ewart, for St. Nicholas'; Mr. Thomas Milner and Mr. William Brownsword Proctor, for All Saints'; Mr. George Anderson, for St. John's; and Mr. Thomas Mackford, and Mr. Thomas Graham, for St. Andrews', went in procession from the Guildhall to the site of the building; a glass vase containing all the coins struck during the reign of his majesty George IV., was deposited in a cavity of the stone, by William Boyd, esq., the treasurer to the commissioners, after which, a brass plate, bearing an appropriate inscription, was inserted. The mayor then proceeded to lay the stone with a silver trowel, which he afterwards presented to Mr. John Dobson, the architect. He then addressed the concourse of spectators with great energy, in language befitting the occasion; this was received with nine hearty cheers, and the completion of the ceremony was announced by the discharge of the artillery from the castle, and the ringing of the bells of the several churches. The mayor afterwards entertained the magistrates and the commissioners at the Mansion-house.

The beginning of this year, Carliol-street was commenced building. Previous to this it was a field called "*The Carliol Croft*."

June 4.—The foundation stone of a new quay or pier was laid, connecting the eastern end of the Low-street of North Shields, with the ancient bridge over the Pow Burn, at the Low Lights. The ceremony of laying the stone was numerously attended, and afterwards a large company dined at Mr. Peascod's, the White Swan inn. The carriage road along this quay was named the Union-way.

June 16.—Whilst some workmen were digging in the ruins of the ancient dormitories of Tynemouth Priory, overlooking Prior's Haven, for the purpose of making a receptacle for gunpowder, a

flat stone was turned up, which had been placed with the letters downwards, as if it had been wrought into the structure a second time. A part of the stone was broken off at each end, and the letters lost; those remaining were almost illegible. Another stone, which looked like the upper end of a hoodstone (or fire-place hudstone), had some rude carvings, or ornamental scrolls round the semicircular end, and what may have been the front. Pieces of small round columns, and parts of stones belonging to groin work, were also turned up amongst the cement of these ancient walls. The half-moon battery, erected during the great rebellion, is within a few yards of this place.

1823 (*June 19*).—A most melancholy accident happened at Walker colliery, near Newcastle. An air-course having to be opened, some workmen were set to open an old shaft, which had been filled up for 25 years. The length of time it had been filled up, induced a belief that the earth, &c., filling it, had become firmly united to the sides, and in consequence, the under-viewer and five other men unfortunately proceeded to remove the earth from the bottom of the shaft, at the same time that others were working at the top of it. They had not worked long, when the whole mass slid down, and buried them under it. Men were immediately set to work to dig them out, when they were found in a shockingly mangled state all quite dead.

June 21.—About two o'clock on the morning, the brass foundry of Messrs. Jobson and Brunting, in Forth-street, Newcastle, and the adjoining nail-factory of Flintoff and Co., were discovered to be on fire, which, by great exertions were extinguished with less injury than was expected.



June.—This month, a very curious urn of pottery ware was discovered by some workmen employed by Mr. John Grey, of Millfield Hill, in Northumberland, in removing a mass of large stones that had obstructed the ploughing of a field. The urn was set upon a flat stone about four feet below the surface, and surrounded by soft alluvial soil, a large flat sandstone was carefully placed over it; and above all, an accumulation of whinstones, some of them of a size inconvenient to remove, to the extent of from 80 to 100 cart loads. The urn contained a quantity of soft dust or

powder, of a brown colour, and many small pieces of bones that had not been completely consumed by fire. Those of the head were the most entire, especially parts of the skull and jaw bones, in which, although the teeth were gone, the sockets that had contained them, remained as regular as the cells in a honey

comb. From the size of the tumulus, and the pains with which the ashes had been deposited in it, there is little reason to doubt that they were the remains of some person of distinction in his day and generation. Annexed is an exact wood cut, by the late Mr. Thomas Bewick, of this urn, from a drawing by Mrs. Grey.

1823 (*July 9*).—A large, commodious, and elegant building, erected by the Society of Friends, at the head of Nile-street, Sunderland, was opened for public worship, by a large concourse of strangers attending from various parts of the country.

July 11,—Died, in Old Elvet, in the city of Durham, aged 92 years, Mr. James Brown, commonly called the *Durham Poet*. Mr. B., who was a native of Scotland, lived many years in the Side, Newcastle, at which time he was a rigid *Buchanite*, and used often to relate that he, with several others of the same persuasion, fasted forty days and forty nights, according to the dictates of Mrs. Elizabeth Buchan, the leader of that sect. In answer to a question how he sustained the cravings of the appetite during that long period, he replied, in the presence of the writer, that “they took no sustenance whatever, only they set on to the fire a great pot, in in which they boiled water, then stirred into it oatmeal. and supped that”!!! Mr. B. followed the business of a tailor; and when in Newcastle, used to attend the fairs in that neighbourhood with clothes made up for that purpose. Here his first wife died; after which he married an old lady, not devoid of eccentricities, but possessed of some property in Durham, on which account he removed to that city to reside. Whilst in Newcastle about forty years ago, he supposed himself the *Poet Laureat* of that town, and used frequently to recite his *effusions*, which possessed “nor rhyme nor reason.” Not long before his death he called upon the writer, and told him that he had sunk some money upon a liberal life-interest, at the same time remarking that the party was *taken in*, as he would *never* die. During Mr. Lambton’s contest, in the year 1820, a number of copies of a pamphlet entitled “A Sublime Epistle, Poetic and Politic,” and other electioneering squibs, pretending to be written “by James Brown, P. L.,” with a portrait, were sent to him anonymously; these, after printing an explanatory address upon the back of the title page, he turned to his own emolument by selling them. Mr. B. was the author of various pamphlets, such as *Poetry*, *Scriptural Hieroglyphics*, &c. The last which he laid before the public was a collection of doggrel poetry printed in Newcastle, by Preston and Heaton in 1820, to which was prefixed a portrait of himself, sounding a trumpet to alarm sinners; it is a whole length cut in wood by Mr. Bewick, with curious verses at top and bottom. This eccentric character was very susceptible of flattery; and various were the letters, &c., eulogising his abilities, which he received, purporting to come from the emperor of Morocco, emperor of Russia, king of England, &c., &c., all which he believed to be genuine. These he used to carry about his person, and frequently exhibit to his *friends*, to the no small amusement of those who were the authors. The last time the writer saw this

original character in Newcastle, he was shewn a letter, to which was appended a lump of bad coloured sealing wax, having upon it an unmeaning impression, this he was fully persuaded was from the Grand Turk! Mr. Brown was latterly a follower of Johanna Southcott. Immediately after writing the above memoir (for the first edition), a notice of Mrs. Brown's death appeared in the Newcastle Chronicle of July 3d, 1824, as follows:—June 27th, died, in Gilligate, Durham, aged 80, Sarah, widow of the late James Brown, commonly called the Durham Poet, a most singular woman. She was in her religion, like her eccentric husband, a follower of Johanna Southcott, and pretended to have had numerous visions concerning a future state, all of which she firmly believed.

1823 (*July 26*).—Grace Griffin was executed at Berwick, pursuant to her sentence, for the murder of her husband, John Griffin. An immense crowd of spectators assembled, as there had not been an execution there since May 10th, 1758, when Margaret Drydon was executed at Berwick for the murder of her bastard child, which she confessed, admitted the justice of her sentence, and died very penitent.

July 29.—The cordwainers of Newcastle, celebrated the festival of St. Crispin, by holding a coronation of their patron saint, and afterwards walking in procession through several streets of that town. The coronation took place in the court of the Peace and Unity Hospital, at the Westgate, at eleven o'clock, and soon after twelve, the procession moved forward through the principle streets of that town and Gateshead, and finally halted at the sign of the Chancellor's Head, in Newgate-street, where the members of the trade partook of a dinner provided for the occasion. A great number of people assembled to witness the procession, as there had not been a similar exhibition since the year 1789. As it has not been revived since 1823, it is hoped that this *silly childish parade* is now laid dormant for ever.

August 12.—Died, in Gateshead poor house, Mary Robson, aged 103 years. Two years before she underwent an amputation of her arm, at the Infirmary, Newcastle, having been unfortunately run over by a coal waggon.

This month, a human skull and some bones, much in decay, were dug up by the side of Fulwell-hill, near Sunderland. Many actions were fought here with the Danish invaders in the 9th century, and in the civil wars the king's forces lay at Newcastle, and Cromwell's at Sunderland, when sharp rencounters took place in this neighbourhood. A gigantic skeleton was dug up here in March, 1758. *See vol. i. page 221.*

September 1.—Died, at Whitton, near Rothbury, Isabella Burn, aged 103 years.

September 12.—The inhabitants of Newcastle and Gateshead were gratified with a novel and interesting spectacle, in a procession through the principal streets, of the workmen employed in several of the glass-houses in that and the neighbouring towns, each bearing in his hand a specimen of the art, remarkable either

for its curious construction or its beauty and elegance. The morning was ushered in with the ringing of bells, and notice of the intended procession having been previously circulated, numbers of people crowded the streets to witness the pleasing spectacle. The yard at the Skinner's burn, belonging to Messrs. Clayton, was the place appointed for the assembling of those who had to form the procession. Here having been marshalled in due order, a little after twelve o'clock it moved forward along the Close, amid the cheers of the assembled multitude, the firing of cannon, and the ringing of bells. It was preceded by the band of the Tyne Hussars, and was composed of the workmen of the Northumberland, the South Shields, the Wear (Sunderland), the Durham and British (Gateshead), the Stourbridge (Gateshead), and the North Shields glass companies, arranged according to the seniority of their respective houses, each of which was distinguished by appropriate flags. The sky was clear, and the rays of the sun falling upon the glittering column, gave it a richness and grandeur in appearance that defy description. The hat of almost every person in it was decorated with a glass feather, whilst a glass star sparkled on their breasts, and a chain or collar of variegated glass hung round the neck; some of them also wore sashes round their waist. Each man carried in his hand a staff, on a cross piece on the top of which was displayed one or more curious or beautiful specimens of their art. As these were thus carried above the heads of the crowd, a full view of them was afforded to every one, and the procession was relieved from the inconvenience which might otherwise have been experienced from the populace crowding round it to obtain a sight of the different vessels. These consisted not only of a profusion of decanters, glasses, goblets, jugs, bowls, dishes, &c. which may be called the staple articles of the trade, and which exhibited an endless variety of elegant shape and exquisite workmanship, but also of several others, remarkable either for their grandeur and excellence of work, or for the curious nature of their construction: amongst the latter were two elegant bird cages, containing birds, which sang at periods during the procession; a salute was fired several times from a fort mounted with glass cannon, to the astonishment of the spectators; and a glass bugle, which sounded the halts and played several marches, was also much admired for its sweetness and correctness of tone. Several elegant specimens of stained glass were exhibited, and many of the men wore glass hats and carried glass swords. When the procession arrived at the Mansion-house it halted, when a salute was fired from the glass cannon; the procession then moved forward, passing along the bridge to Gateshead, and up the streets of that town as far as Mr. Price's house; it then returned and paraded through the principal streets of Newcastle, and finally halted at Mr. Thomas Heron's, the Cock inn, at the head of the Side, where the men belonging to four of the houses were to dine. Here the brittle fort fired a salute, as it had done several times before. The men of the two remaining houses then proceeded to their respective

places of entertainment, one to Mrs. Wallace's, Nag's Head, foot of the Butchers' Bank, the other to Mr. Methuen's, Gateshead.—Exhibitions of this kind are highly commendable, not being a mere *unmeaning shew* calculated for caricature, but exhibiting to public view some of the finest efforts of human industry and genius.

1823 (*Sept. 26*).—Died, at Hedston Link House, near Warkworth, Mrs. Jane Young, aged 105 years.

October 23.—Died, at West Thirston, near Felton, Northumberland, Mr. Charles Gibson. Without any previous indisposition, he dropped down at his own door, and instantly expired. In early life he learnt the trade of a linen-weaver, in which he was very proficient; but taking a dislike to the business, he gave it up, and, without any instruction whatever, commenced making musical instruments, such as small pipes, large bagpipes, violins, clarionets, &c. He also made telescopes, which he completed with admirable dexterity; and the late Dr. Herschel, the astronomer, did him the honour to inspect and purchase some of his making.

October 31.—Died, in Gateshead poor-house, Jane Downie, aged 100 years.

November 2.—A fire was discovered, about four o'clock on the morning, in the tallow-melting and candle-making house and loft of Mr. Caleb Wilson, in Walton-lane, Sunderland. The devouring element raged with great fury for about two hours, when, by the prompt exertions of Mr. Thomas Cook, the engine-keeper, and the ready assistance of the inhabitants in general, the fire was got under, but not until that part of Mr. Wilson's extensive range of warehouses was entirely burnt down, and about half of the stock, &c. therein destroyed.

November 3.—A dreadful explosion of inflammable air took place in the Plain Pit of Rainton colliery, in the parish of Houghton-le-spring, Durham, belonging to the marquis of Londonderry, when fifty-three men and boys perished, and several others were dreadfully hurt, two of whom afterwards died; twelve horses were also killed. A little before eight o'clock, one of the overmen, and soon after, one of the workmen, descended the pit, and succeeded in bringing several of the sufferers to bank; and in the course of the morning the bodies of all who had perished were brought up, with the exception of four, who were in the more distant parts of the mine. The bodies presented a most shocking spectacle, being much burnt, and many of them very much mutilated.

December 1.—Died, in Alnwick, Miss Hindmarsh, aged 25 years. She was the author of the "*Cave of Hoonga, a Tongean Tradition, and other Poems*," published at Alnwick, her native town, in 1818. This young lady possessed considerable literary talents, having, at the early age of fifteen, written several of the miscellaneous pieces which compose the above volume.

December 8.—Part of the splendid collection of books, belonging to John Trotter Brockett, esq., of Newcastle, were commenced selling by auction, in London, by Mr. Sotheby. The books, in general, were in fine condition, and brought great prices. The

following are the most particular local works, with their prices :— Allan's Collection relating to Sherburn Hospital, £4. 4s. ; Allan's Collection of Tracts, £52. 10s. ; Darlington Pamphlet, or, County of Durham Intelligencer, £6. 18s. ; Collection of Pamphlets respecting the Durham Magistracy, £3. 9s. ; Brewster's History of Stockton, £1. 6s. ; Rev. John Brand's Catalogue, £1. 14s. ; Brockett's Catalogue of Coins, £1. 4s. ; Ritson's Catalogue, £2. 5s. ; Adamson's Life of Camoens, £1. 11s. 6d. ; Tittle-tattle Mongers, £4. 5s. ; Glossary of North Country Words, compiled by Mr. Brockett, MS., £8. 8s. [This has since been published by Mr. Brockett, and has gone through two editions.] Hilton's Titus in Sandgate, 13s. ; Honesto Willo, a Cant, £1. 2s. ; Newcastle Custom-house Garland, £3. 4s. ; Long Pack, on parchment, 7s. ; Collection of Old Ballads and Penny Histories, collected by William Garret, 8 vols. £10. 10s. ; Roxby's Lay of the Reedwater Minstrel, 14s. ; Hutchinson's Northumberland, 2 vols., £6. 7s. 6d. ; Horsley's Britannia Romana, £17. 6s. 6d. ; Gardiner's England's Grievance Discovered, in relation to the Coal Trade (original copy), £20. 9s. 6d. ; Bewick's Works (57 lots), £163. 18s. 6d. ; Grey's Chorographia (original), £5. 7s. 6d. ; Bourne's History of Newcastle, large paper, £54. 12s. There are only three copies of Bourne's History, on large paper, known to be in existence, one of which is in the possession of William Boyd, esq. of Newcastle. *See an account of Mr. Bourne and his History, February 16th, 1733, vol. i. page 148.*

1823 (*Dec. 10*).—Soon after eleven o'clock at night, a fire broke out in the engine-house of the saw-mill belonging to Messrs. Brown and Son, carpenters, at the head of Northumberland-street, Newcastle, and the wind blowing strong at the time, the fire raged with such fury, that before any engines arrived, the house and machinery were entirely destroyed. By the force of the wind, the sparks were carried into the adjoining stack yard of Mr. Lax, and unfortunately communicated to one of the stacks, which was soon in an entire blaze. By the arrival of the engines, and the exertions of the assistants, the other stacks were preserved. Part of the range of work sheds belonging to Mr. Brown were pulled down, to prevent the fire from spreading ; but fortunately the flames reached no part of them, or of the great stock of timber lying about. How the fire originated was not known ; when first discovered, it had attained no great height, but, from the injudicious bursting open of the doors, the wind soon raised the flames to such an ungovernable height, that in less than an hour, the whole building and machinery were destroyed.

December 13.—There was an extraordinary parade of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer cavalry, on the town-moor, Newcastle, for the purpose of presenting their worthy commander, Lieut.-Col. Brandling, M. P., of Gosforth House, with a magnificent gold vase, unanimously voted to him by the individuals of that regiment. It was presented by Major Sir Charles Loraine, bart., who addressed the colonel in a very appropriate speech, to which the colonel made an eloquent reply. At the conclusion of the

speeches, there were loud cheerings, which lasted some minutes. This magnificent present is a copy of the celebrated Warwick vase, found in Herculaneum, and now in the possession of the earl of Warwick. With the pedestal, it is 19 inches in height, and will contain about eight quarts. The weight is upwards of 300 ounces. It was manufactured under the direction of Messrs. Lewis and Wright, goldsmiths and jewellers, Newcastle. Although it was a cold winter day, with occasional showers, several ladies were present, among whom were Mrs. Brandling, Mrs. Bigge, Mrs. Dixon Brown, Mrs. Dr. Headlam, &c. &c.

1823 (*Dec. 27*).—On account of Mr. Thomas Gustard, one of the brethren of St. Edmund's Hospital, having attained his 100th year, the Rev. John Collinson, rector, celebrated the event by a dinner at the Rectory-house, Gateshead, for all the brethren, the old man sitting at the head of the table, and the rector honouring them with his presence. Mr. Gustard died on the 23d March, 1828, at the age of 104.

The latter end of this year, the city of Durham was lighted with gas, from an apparatus erected in a field adjoining Framwellgate.

This year, as some workmen were digging in a field adjoining the turnpike road at Halton Chesters (Roman station *Hunnum*), they discovered the foundations of a stone wall six feet thick; this they traced about forty yards in a north and south direction, without reaching either extremity. A hypocaust was also found, fifteen feet square, the floor laid with Roman tiles. The flues were found very perfect. Several openings were found into a subterraneous passage, supposed to be a sewer, and which was explored above 100 feet. A quantity of bones, both human and animal, horns of different kinds, and earthen vessels with inscriptions nearly obliterated, have been dug up.

Stowell-street, running westward from Heron-street, within the town walls, Newcastle, was this year commenced building.

This year, died at Hexham, Mrs. E. Carr, aged 104 years.

1824 (*Jan. 7*).—Died, at Cornsay, in the county of Durham, Mrs. Elizabeth Kirkley, aged 103 years.

January 8.—On removing a *barrow*, consisting of about 500 cart loads of stones, on the farm of Mr. Black, at North Charlton, on the east side of the post road, and about 100 paces from the six mile stone north of Alnwick, two rude sepulchres were found, about seven yards asunder; the first consisted of four stones set on edge, four feet long and two feet broad; these were covered by one large stone. In this sepulchre, which was about four feet from the surface, were found some small bones. The other grave was of larger dimensions, being also formed of stones set on edge, and measuring within, full six feet long, two feet wide, and two and a half deep. The joints were cemented with a kind of blue clay. At the west end of this sepulchre, was a stone placed as a pillow, whereon was found a human skull, measuring nine inches long and seven inches across the temples; the under jaw contained three

fresh teeth ; there were also leg and feet bones found in their proper places. In this grave was also found a brass spear, about six inches long in the blade, with two edges and a very sharp point ; it had a haft rivetted on to it, apparently of bone, but which soon crumbled to dust. This latter sepulchre was about six feet from the surface, covered with one stone about seven feet long, four feet broad, and about twenty inches thick ; these, which were in a rough state, were bedded upon a blue loam or clay. No inscription was observable upon any of the stones. They were afterwards removed to the plantation of Charlton Hall, and the spear was sent to John Cay, esq., of Edinburgh, proprietor of the estate.

1824 (*Jan.* 17).—Died, at South Shields, Mrs. Dobson, aged 100 years.

January 23.—Hackney coaches were established in Newcastle, and the stand was appointed to be in the square in front of St. Nicholas' church. The fares were appointed by the right worshipful William Wright, esq., the mayor, acting between the proprietors and the public provisionally, until the rates of fare could be finally settled by the magistrates assembled at the Easter quarter sessions, in pursuance of the local act of parliament for that purpose.

January 25.—A very elegant new organ, built and erected by Messrs. Wood and Co., of Edinburgh, was opened at Gateshead church by D. S. Hawks, esq., who kindly volunteered his services on the occasion. A very excellent sermon was preached on the morning by the Rev. Charles Thorp, of Ryton, from the 4th verse of the 100th Psalm, after which, a collection of £29 18s. 5d., was made to assist in defraying the expense of the purchase and erection of the organ ; and in the evening a very well arranged and suitable sermon was preached by the Rev. John Collinson, of Lamesley, from the 5th chap. 2d Chron. verses 13 and 14, and a collection of £16. 2s. 2d. made. The church was crowded both in the morning and evening, and the instrument gave great satisfaction. The performance was of the most masterly style. Mr. Hawks has been a prodigy in music ever since a boy. *See May* 13th, 1798, *vol. i. page* 389.

February 9.—A fire was discovered raging with great violence in the cabin of the Pomona, Captain Pybus, lying on the south side of the river at Newcastle. Considerable damage was done before it was extinguished. The fire originated from the over-heating of the cabin stove.

February 14.—The wind-mill belonging to Mr. George Blaxland, at Carr's Hill, near Gateshead, was destroyed by fire. The adjoining dwelling-house was saved. How the fire, which took place at night, originated, could not be ascertained, as the mill had not been at work since the morning, and the premises had been examined and appeared secure a short time before the fire was discovered.

March 9.—The town of Sunderland was first lighted with gas,

the brilliancy of which was much admired by a large concourse of spectators.

1824 (*March* 16).—The first general meeting of the Literary, Scientific, and Mechanical Institution, of Newcastle, was held in the Joiners' Hall, Mr. Robert Robson, in the chair. After some discussion, rules were adopted, and two secretaries, with eighteen members for an acting committee were chosen. April 27th, the library was opened in a room in Pilgrim-street, which had been occupied as an auction-mart. Most of the books had been presented. The first monthly meeting of this institution, the Rev. William Turner in the chair, was held May 11th, 1824. This institution, which is at present in a very flourishing state, is held in very spacious apartments in a building fitted up for the purpose near the east end of Blackett-street.

Mechanics institutions are established at nearly all the towns, &c. in the counties of Durham and Northumberland.

March.—Some masons working in a quarry at Cowpen High House, near Blyth, discovered, inclosed in a block of freestone, two petrified fish, apparently, from their shape and dimensions (about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length), of the salmon tribe, though the scales were larger than belong to that description of fish. The impression of the scales was left on the stone in which they were found.

This month, the foundation stone of a new school-room, at Warkworth, for boys, to be built by subscription, capable of containing 100 children, to be instructed on the Madras system, and in the principles of the church of England, was laid by the Rev. T. Winscom, the vicar.

April.—The beginning of this month, as the workmen were cutting a drain, a little in advance of the south side of the castle, of Newcastle, they discovered several human skeletons, some at the depth of eight feet, and others at the depth of three feet from the surface. Two were found at about eighteen inches from each other, lying with the feet to the east, and secured from the earth by rude sepulchres, the bottoms of which were formed of thin stones and lime, and the sides built up of stones, with stones laid upon the tops to support the superincumbent earth. A skull of one of these which the writer had in his hand, and inspected, had a round perforation in the top, as if made by a ball; the under jaw was attached to the skull, and had the teeth quite perfect, though very blunt, the teeth in the upper jaw were also perfect, with the exception of two or three in the front, which the workmen said they had knocked out. It is very natural to suppose that these must have been men of rank, from the manner of their interment, as the other bodies which were found, seemed to have been promiscuously huddled together. The skull, which is in a state of fine preservation, is now in the possession of Mr. James Wilkie, at the Dispensary, Newcastle.

April 5.—Died, at North Shields, aged 71 years, Mr. James Pringle, a most profound mathematician. The small share of

school education Mr. Pringle had, he obtained at Cambo, in Northumberland. He was almost self-taught, having acquired a knowledge of the French, Latin, and Greek languages. At one period of his life he was an assistant for the "*Nautical Ephemeris*," under the late astronomer-royal, Dr. Maskelyne. He corresponded with the late Dr. Hutton on scientific subjects. Mr. Pringle was for 22 years vice-treasurer to the North Shields Subscription Library, and was at all times an unassuming man.

1824 (*April 5*).—A Horticultural and Botanical Society was established in Newcastle. The first prize exhibition was held January 14th, 1825. This is held annually.

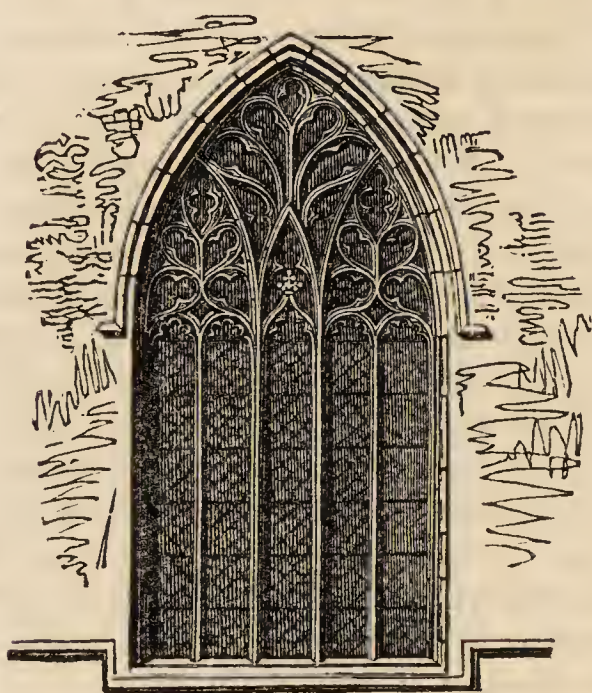
April 15.—Died, at Witton Gilbert, Durham, Ann Hall, widow, aged 100 years.

April 20.—Died, in Bridge-street, Blackfriars, London, the Rev. Robert Clarke, M. A., rector of Walwick, and lecturer of Hexham, aged 53 years. May 1st, his remains arrived at Newcastle in a hearse with six horses, followed by a mourning coach with four horses; and on the 3d, the mournful procession was joined by several private carriages, and set out with considerable heraldic splendour for Hexham, displaying a great number of banners and escutcheons. The day was one continued storm of wind and rain, but notwithstanding, as the procession approached its destination, it was met and joined by the members of the different trades, and almost all the inhabitants of Hexham, in deep mourning, to testify their respect for the deceased. The shops were shut, the bells tolled at intervals, and the throng of people, accumulating as the hearse advanced, produced an effect of imposing and melancholy awe, which was much heightened by the solemn order of the procession, the rear of it being composed of a great number of respectable gentlemen of Hexham and its neighbourhood, who walked in pairs. The funeral service was performed by the Rev. C. Lee, and after a solemn dirge on the organ, Luther's sublime hymn was impressively chaunted. By the death of this great and good man, the town and neighbourhood of Hexham suffered an almost irreparable loss, and numerous odes, elegies, &c. &c., were written on the occasion. As a proof of the general estimation in which this gentleman was held, a sermon was preached on the occasion, in the Presbyterian chapel, Hexham, on Sunday May 9th, 1824, by the Rev. James Richardson, from 2d Samuel, 3d chap. 38th verse, and which was published by request.

April 21.—The barns, stables, cow-houses, and sheds, on the farm at South Acomb, near Bywell, the property of T. W. Beaumont, esq., M. P., were entirely destroyed by fire. The dwelling-house and a cottage were all that escaped the devouring element. The tenants had two calves, a cart, and a considerable quantity of implements of husbandry consumed, also a thrashing machine and sixty bolls of oats were destroyed.

April 23.—Mr. George Gilmore, the surveyor of the turnpike-road between Durham and Newcastle, having discovered that a sprinkling of the oil of salt (which can be done at a moderate

expense) was most effectual in laying the dust of roads for a considerable time without a repetition, whereas the effect of watering lasts only for a short time, tried the experiment at Birtley-lane, near Birtley, and found, after the lapse of a month. that it was still firm and damp, as this liquid attracts and retains the moisture from the atmosphere. Mr. Gilmore afterwards tried the experiment on the McAdamised part of Dean-street, and other parts of Newcastle, which still confirmed the value of the discovery, yet this simple method of allaying the dust has not come into general use. In the year 1823, Mr. Gilmore was presented with a silver cup by the gentlemen connected with the road between Newcastle and Durham, for his indefatigable and praiseworthy exertions on that turnpike during the dreadful snow storm in the beginning of that year.



April 27.—Workmen commenced taking down the fine old Gothic window in the north transept of St. Nicholas' Church, in Newcastle. This beautiful window had long been in a ruinous state, and from the effects of a high wind (March 3, 1823), it was found necessary to prop it. In this state it remained until the stone work of the new window was ready to be put in, which, when completed, together with several improvements in the interior of the north transept, &c., reflected a lasting honour

on those spirited individuals by whose generosity these alterations were accomplished. This wood cut shews the window.

1824 (*May 13*).—The foundation-stone of a new church, dedicated to St. John, on Gateshead Fell, was laid by the Rev. John Collinson, A. M., rector of Gateshead. As is customary on such occasions, the coinage of the reigning monarch, from a penny, in silver, to a sovereign, was deposited in a handsome flint-glass bottle, which bottle was placed in a cavity in the foundation-stone, along with a neat silver tablet, bearing an inscription which set forth the name of the rev. gentleman who performed the ceremony, the dignities, &c., of the rev. diocesan (the lord bishop of Durham), the names of the trustees—Sir R. S. Hawks, knt., Matthew Atkinson, John Barras, Michael Hall, and Henry Smith, esqrs., and of the architect, Mr. Ions, as well as the day of the month, and the year of the reign of his majesty George IV. After the stone was deposited, the rector put up an excellent and appropriate prayer which was listened to with becoming attention. On the conclusion of the ceremony a salute of nine guns was fired from a temporary battery, which was answered by nine cheers from the populace. Afterwards a large party partook of refreshments most liberally and

hospitably provided in a tent by James Hutchinson, esq., of Sheriff-hill. August 30, 1825, the church and cemetery were consecrated by the lord bishop of Oxford. Oct. 30, the church was opened for divine service, when a sermon was preached by the Rev. John Collinson, A. M., rector of Gateshead. April 15, 1827 an excellent organ was opened in this church, on which occasion Mr. D. S. Hawks presided.

1824 (*May 27*).—The Rev. John Collinson, rector, the four-and-twenty, the churchwardens, and a great number of other inhabitants, accompanied by Mr. Forster, steward to Cuthbert Ellison, esq., M. P., lord of the manor, perambulated the boundaries of the parish of Gateshead. They commenced at the Blue-stone, on Tyne Bridge, at nine o'clock, attended by two constables with flags, and two excellent pipers, and were greeted at their departure by a salute of guns from Mr. Price's glass-works, and a peal of bells from St. Mary's church. They proceeded by the northern and the western boundaries to Wreckinton, where refreshments were provided for them, and music from an excellent band afforded amusement for the ladies in the festive dance. From hence the procession moved along the southern and eastern boundary to the river Tyne, where the constables and pipers took boat, and proceeded to the bridge. A number of medals were distributed on the occasion bearing on the obverse, within a circle of dots, the arms of Gateshead, round which "*Gateshead Parish Boundary Token*;" and on the reverse, within a circle of dots, "*The Rev. John Collinson, Rector*," round which, "*Perambulated 27th May, 1824.*" As there had not been a perambulation since the year 1792, a great number of persons attended. The perambulation ended at half-past four o'clock, when the party sat down to an excellent dinner, at the Black Bull Inn, Sir R. S. Hawks, knt., in the chair.

This month, several very ancient oak coffins containing human bones, were found in draining a peat-moss belonging to the hon. Thomas Wallace, of Featherstone Castle, near Haltwhistle, in Northumberland. The coffins were of rough oak, hewn out of the solid, and the covers fastened down with pins of the same. As plenty of stone is to be had in those parts, it is reasonable to suppose, that these interments must have been anterior to the use of stone coffins. They were found about six feet from the surface in wet clay.

July.—The town's wall which extended from Newgate to Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, and the straggling houses which were built against it on the outside, were at this time being pulled down, for the purpose of forming an elegant new square and street, which have since been completed, and named "*Eldon-square*," after our illustrious townsman the earl of Eldon, and "*Blackett-street*," after the late alderman John Erasmus Blackett, esq.

August 11.—The cause so very interesting to Newcastle and its neighbourhood—*Rex versus Russell and others*, proprietors of Wallsend colliery, was tried at York, before Mr. Justice Bailey and a special jury. It was in form an indictment for an alleged nuisance

in obstructing the navigation of the river Tyne, by erecting at the termination of the colliery railways, staiths or spouts for conveying coals directly from the waggons into the ships. Mr. Brougham was counsel for the keelman, who were the real prosecutors. Mr. Scarlett for the defendants. A great number of witnesses were in attendance, but only 17 were examined on the part of the prosecution. No witnesses were called for the defendants, who obtained a verdict of not guilty, which was returned in three minutes by the jury. The cause lasted twelve hours. This cause was again tried, August 14th and 15th, 1828, at Carlisle, before Mr. Baron Hullock, and a special jury. Mr. Brougham was again counsel for the prosecution, and Mr. Scarlett for the defendants. The latter did not call a witness. The jury, after a consultation of four hours, returned the following singular verdict:—“ *We find that part of the navigable channel of the river Tyne, opposite to Wallsend, has been straitened, narrowed, lessened, and obstructed by the gears described in the indictment; but we find, nevertheless, that the trade of the town of Newcastle, and the harbour of the Tyne, has at the same time, greatly improved.*”

1824 (Aug. 21).—A meeting of the nobility, clergy, and freeholders of the county of Northumberland, took place in the county courts, in Newcastle, (by order of the high sheriff), to consider the expediency of forming a railway between Newcastle and Carlisle. Col. Coulson opened by recommending an easy communication from sea to sea by a railway. Mr. Armstrong, merchant, then proved to the meeting the decided advantage of a ship canal over a railway. Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., then proposed that a committee should be appointed to inquire whether this communication would be most desirable by a canal or railway, which was unanimously agreed to, and the meeting broke up. March 26th, 1825, another meeting was held, when the report of the committee in favour of a railway, was agreed to unanimously and without debate.

August 26.—This day (Thursday), there was the lowest spring ebb ever remembered in the river Tyne. Three pilots, L. Burn, junior, J. Harrison, and William Tully, walked across from the south to the north side of the river on Tynemouth bar! a circumstance, which it was believed, had never occurred before. At high water on that day, there were twenty-four feet, eight inches, water on the bar, and when the pedestrians set off they found only two!!

August 29.—Died suddenly, while sitting at his desk, William Richardson, esq., of North Shields, aged 65 years. Mr. Richardson was born at Little-harle, Well-house, in the parish of Kirkwhelpington, May 26th, 1759, and where he obtained an accurate knowledge of local antiquities, and a high relish for the music, songs, and tales of the ancient Northumbrian borderers. He was a teacher in his youth, and kept a school for a few years at Backworth, in the parish of Earsdon. He next removed to North Shields, where he practised as a notary public, for the long period of thirty-four years, and became secretary to several Marine Insurance Clubs of the port of Tyne. His correspondence was most extensive, and

the ease and rapidity with which he conducted it were really astonishing. He was a contributor to several periodical publications, and a useful correspondent to some provincial newspapers. "Hotspur," and various other specimens of his poetic talents, were privately circulated amongst his friends. His "Description of Croft Spa," obtained some celebrity, but his fame rests most upon his translation of Anacreon in chaste, smooth, and elegant verse. There is a marble monument to his memory put up in Tynemouth church.

1824 (*Sept 2*).—During a severe thunder storm, the wife of Michael Anderson, a hind at Westburnhope, near Hexham, and the horse on which she was riding were instantaneously killed by lightning, on the road between Ridlamhope and Westburnhope. Her husband was with her, and was struck down and blinded, but recovered his sight. Six cows belonging to Mr. Ralph Forster, of Barrasford, were killed by one flash. A horse, at Wittonstall, was also struck dead. A thorn hedge, near Horsley, was set on fire, and burnt for about forty yards. In a house, near Newstead, between Alnwick and Belford, a man was killed, and another much hurt by the lightning. A cow, the property of Mr. Murdy, of Heifer-law-bank, was also killed in the field. A pig was killed by the lightning, at a house near Morton-square, a few miles from Berwick, and a man at the same place was slightly injured. Two houses in Zion-street, Sunderland, were much damaged by the lightning. As a butcher was driving some lambs in the Back Lane four of them were struck dead. A mason returning home with his trowel in his hand, the lightning struck the trowel, and carried it to a considerable distance. The man was not hurt. At Middleton in Teesdale, as Mr. John Pinkney, one of the stewards to the London Mining Company, at that place, was returning home, about a mile from Middleton, he and his horse were both killed upon the spot. He left a widow far advanced in pregnancy, and six small children to lament his awful fate. A tremendous flash went down the chimney of the poor-house, in Barnard-castle, and though above twenty persons were in the rooms, it providentially did no material hurt. It came out of the fire-place of the first story, and though some old men were sitting round the fire, it did not hurt them, except striking one deaf a little time. It then proceeded to the next room, tore the plastering from the wall, ploughed up the boards for two yards or more, passed under the feet of an old woman who was sitting on an iron bedstead, yet did her no harm. It then proceeded to the lower story, played round the room in the most astonishing manner, leaving marks of its power; from thence it went through the wall into the back kitchen, knocked one man down, and though the mistress of the house and a girl were nearly in a line with it, they only found its effects a few hours. A person in the kitchen said he distinctly saw it go out of the door in the form of a ball of fire. When the master went into the rooms to look after the old people, the sulphur was so strong that he could scarcely enter, and the scene was past description.

1824 (*Sept.* 18).—Died, at Deptford, Bishopwearmouth, Jane Claxton, aged 101 years.

September 20.—Died, at Sunderland, Jane Wayman, aged 100 years.

September 28.—The new market-house at Stockton, for butchers, was opened for public use, and the same day the first horse fair was held in Stockton, and a public cattle shew very numerously attended, and rewards distributed.

October 3.—Between one and two o'clock on the morning, the iron foundry of Messrs. Guthrie and Co., of Tweedmouth, was discovered to be on fire. Notwithstanding the utmost exertions on the part of the inhabitants, with the water engine from Berwick, the fire continued its progress until about five o'clock, when with difficulty it was got under, after destroying a great part of the building.

October 5.—A grand musical festival commenced at Newcastle, which lasted four days. It was composed of the first vocal and instrumental performers in the kingdom. There was a large assembly of the nobility and gentry of all the northern counties in the town, and one-fifth (£769) of all the monies received for tickets of admission to St. Nicholas' church and the Theatre Royal was given to the charitable institutions of Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle. From the number of the nobility and gentry who were its patrons, this festival was the most splendid that had ever taken place in Newcastle. "A copious and interesting account" of this "Grand Musical Festival" was intended to have been published in octavo by Mr. T. C. Sykes. *See May* 21st. 1825.

Same day a hay and straw market was established in Newcastle, to be holden on the Parade Ground, at the head of Percy-street, on the Tuesday in every week.

October 10.—One of the severest storms of wind and rain ever remembered took place in Newcastle and its neighbourhood. It continued without intermission for nearly twenty-four hours. The rain fell in torrents, and laid considerable tracts of land under water. Much damage was done on the banks of the river Wear, by its rising to a tremendous height; but the most fatal and destructive effects were felt at sea and along the coast, when 200 vessels were cast away.

October 12.—One of that rare species of birds called the Great Northern Diver, was shot on the river Tyne, near Newcastle, Quay, by a keelman. Various ineffectual attempts were made by different persons above the bridge to secure it. The storm on the 10th and 11th was supposed to have driven this unfortunate visitor from its northern haunts, as not one of this species had ever been seen so far south before.

October 19.—A hay and straw market was established in Sunderland, to be held in the High-street, on the Tuesday in each week.

October 23.—About nine o'clock at night, a fire broke out in the house of Mr. John Rennison, bookseller, Berwick, which consumed a considerable quantity of stock in the wareroom where it originated, and before it could be got under, communicated to a

bedroom adjoining ; by the prompt attendance of the engines, the fire was in the course of about three hours extinguished. It was occasioned by the shop-boy going up to the wareroom with a candle, from which a spark had reached some loose papers.

1824 (Oct. 25).—A prize fight between two young men of Newcastle, named James Wallace, a bricklayer, and Thomas Dunn, a butcher, was fought on Barlow Fell, near Ryton, in the county of Durham. It was for 20 sovereigns a side, and completely in the London style, as the combatants had their seconds, &c. &c. It was computed, that at this disgraceful scene there were not less than 2,000 persons, who evinced much disappointment at the speedy victory obtained by the bricklayer over his antagonist. After the eighth round, in all of which Wallace proved his superiority, time was called, and he was declared the victor. On the morning and at night Newcastle exhibited great agitation. The chaise which conveyed Dunn to the *scene of action*, ran over an old man and broke both his legs, which caused his death a short time after.

Same day, an explosion took place in the George Pit, Lumley, when fourteen human beings were launched into eternity.

November 1.—Died at North Sunderland, Northumberland, Elizabeth Gregory, widow, aged 104 years.

November 5.—About twelve o'clock at night, the water corn-mill at Chester-le-street, in the occupation of Mesr^{ss}. Croudace, Smith, and Wight, was discovered to be on fire, the flames bursting through the doors, windows, &c. A number of the inhabitants promptly repaired to the spot to render assistance ; there being no engine in the town, some of them immediately went to Lambton-hall, and brought the engine belonging to J. G. Lambton, esq., M. P., but too late to render any assistance, as the roof and the upper lofts fell in about two o'clock, a very fortunate circumstance for the proprietors of the other buildings near the mill, as a large thatched house, the mill stables, and other buildings were within ten yards. The machinery had all been put up new about four or five months before. There were about fifty sacks of flour dressed, a quantity of dressed wheat, and upwards of six hundred bolls of corn. The loss was supposed to be between £1,400 and £1,600. No part was insured. The water wheels were the only part saved from the devouring element.

November 7.—A fire broke out in the cabin of the ship Emerald, Captain Pringle, when moored off the Custom-house quay, North Shields. It was discovered from the Excise-office, and the alarm given. With the assistance of the crew of the Fleetwood, of London, and others, it was got under without much damage.

November 8.—A letter from Captain Davidson, of the ship Northumberland, of North Shields, to his owner, stated the following fact ; the ship was lying at Sierra Leone :—" On the 8th of November, 1824, one of our crew being on the bowsprit fishing, dropped his knife overboard. He made a great deal of work about it, but judge his surprise, when on the same afternoon he caught a dolphin with the identical knife in its belly. The fish was cut up in my

presence, and I saw the knife taken out." This is coincident with the restoration of Mr. Anderson's ring. *See 1559, vol. i. page 75.*

1824 (*Nov. 18*).—A meeting was held at Alnwick to take into consideration the propriety of establishing a Mechanics' Institution for the instruction and improvement of the operative classes. The object of the meeting having been laid before his grace the duke of Northumberland, his grace, with his wonted liberality, approved of it, and became its patron. The right honourable Earl Grey also became its president. June 22d, 1831, the foundation stone of a new building for this institution was laid in the Green Bat in that town with great ceremony, by John Lambert, esq., who generously presented the society with the site for the building.

The same evening Hexham was first lighted with oil lamps.

November 19.—An explosion took place in the Dolly Pit, Newbottle colliery, which proved fatal to the eight deputy overmen and wastemen who were below at the time; and also to three of five others who afterwards descended in search of the dead bodies. A partition which divided the shaft (it being a double one) was blown from its situation and fell to the bottom.

On the evening of the same day a quantity of gunpowder having been accidentally ignited in the shop of Mr. Archbold, grocer in Wooler, caused a tremendous explosion, by which the windows of the shop were driven out, and those of the second and third story of the same house, and also those of the adjoining house were broken. Some rolls of Spanish juice were driven to the opposite side of the street, by which several squares of glass were broken. Mr. Archbold's eyes were much injured by the powder.

November 24.—Died, at Throckley Fell, Ann Jamieson, aged 102 years. She resided at Bamborough 58 years, and was one of the greatest spinners of the north; and what was remarkable, the last twelve months of her life she span forty yards of cloth for the use of her son, although she had been blind for above three years; and it was with the greatest difficulty she could be kept from her wheel on the morning of her death.

1824 (*Dec. 6*).—The new branch of the turnpike road from Tyne-bridge to Durham, by Potticar-lane, at the head of Gateshead, and the Low Fell, to avoid the great elevation of the hill-top over which the old road went, was commenced making. The royal mail first passed along this road, June 17th, 1826.

December 7.—About four o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in the carpet manufactory of Messrs. Harrison, Crosby, Dunn and Co., at Barnardcastle; the wind at the time blowing very strong from the west, caused the flames to increase very rapidly and endanger the whole street, but fortunately, in a few minutes, the wind ceased, and by the great exertions of the neighbours, the fire was got under, but not till nearly the whole premises were destroyed. Many of the windows on the opposite side of the street were broken, and several families near the place removed their goods and children, many of them nearly naked. The loss was estimated at £1,500., and no part was insured.

1824 (*Dec. 10*).—The out-houses at Balkwell, near North Shields belonging to Mr. Richard Cowell, were discovered to be on fire when the barn, with a thrashing machine, a byre and a stable in which was a fine young horse, were consumed. The stack-garth and dwelling-house, by the prompt exertions of the neighbouring farmers, were saved from the devouring element. This was supposed to be the act of an incendiary, as a short time before a hay stack was set on fire, which Mr. Cowell was positive could not have originated from accident, and therefore kept a watch every night till that on which the last conflagration happened.

December 25.--The wind blew, with short intervals of calm, a perfect hurricane for several days, and the snow, sleet, rain, and frost followed each other with astonishing rapidity. The river Tyne was swollen to a great extent. The villages by the water side were all more or less inundated. At Blaydon the water rushed into one house in such a torrent, that it was found to be seven feet deep, and the inmates were obliged to be taken out by a boat from the window! A butcher in the village had two sheep lost. The coaches were all delayed by the state of the roads. On the above day the horses had to swim with the True Briton coach across the river at Corbridge. It was four hours behind its usual time of arrival at Newcastle from Carlisle. The Carlisle mail, which ought to have reached Newcastle at 7 o'clock at night, did not arrive till half-past eleven o'clock on the following morning, as they were obliged to stop all night at Hexham, not deeming it safe to cross the bridge, or rather the river at Corbridge.

December 27.—The foundation stone of a Presbyterian chapel in connection with the United Secession church of Scotland, was laid in the Newbottle-road, near Houghton-le-Spring, by George Robinson, esq., of that place, in the presence of part of the congregation.

1824 (*Dec. 30*).—Died, at Rothbury, Christian Long, aged 102 years.

This month, the workmen in forming two windows on the north side of Carliol Tower, Newcastle, found a cannon ball weighing upwards of 23lb. It had penetrated about two feet into the wall, where the north-east window is now made, and was probably shot during the siege of that town by the Scots in 1644. *See vol i. page 97.*

1825 (*Jan. 5*).—The Antiquarian Society of Newcastle, of which his grace the duke of Northumberland is patron, held their 12th anniversary meeting in the rooms provided for their accommodation in the new erection of the Literary and Philosophical Society in Westgate-street, James Losh, esq., one of the vice-presidents, in the chair. John Adamson, esq., treasurer, read a very interesting report to a numerous attendance.

February 2.—In the night of this day (Wednesday), there was a tremendous hurricane, which did considerable damage to chimneys, buildings, and shipping. It was followed the next day by a most extraordinary high tide. At Newcastle the river rose above the

quay, on which boats were floated, and several houses on both sides of the river Tyne were inundated, keels sunk, and floats of timber set adrift. By the tide of Friday morning, several cellars in the lower parts of Shields were filled, and other damage sustained; but the greatest sufferer was Mr. Wall, of the Low Lights, North Shields, ship-builder. The sea breaking heavily upon the quay in front of the building-yard, washed the same away, and two vessels on the stocks, the one intended for a brig of about 120 tons, timbered and partly planked, and the other a sloop nearly finished, were washed off, and the larger vessel laid a complete wreck. The sloop was, by the praiseworthy exertions of several of the inhabitants and seamen of the town, with much difficulty got into a place of safety, but not without receiving much damage, and in the whole, it was calculated that Mr. Wall had sustained a loss of nearly £700. A subscription was commenced for the sufferer. The ground washed away at the Low-lights, was almost beyond belief. Part of the wall in front of Clifford's-fort, also gave way, over which the sea broke with tremendous fury; nor were the banks and rocks at the extremity of Cullercoats sands, able to withstand the impetuosity of the waves. A huge rock, which projected like a canopy, fell to the ground, and an inroad of several feet into the slaty bank, was visible. At Seaton Sluice, the tide was the highest ever remembered by the oldest inhabitant. The wind blew a heavy gale from the northward, and the sea was tremendously high, which, with the tide, threatened at one time to destroy the harbour. A breach was made by the sea through one of the piers, but by very great exertions it was repaired before the next tide. The whole of the east side of the stone pier was destroyed, and the entrance to the old harbour blocked up. The vessels in the port, fortunately did not sustain any damage. At Blyth also, the tide rose to an unprecedented height. A house adjoining Mr. Hutchinson's school, was washed down, and the inmates, six in number, narrowly escaped being drowned. The poor woman of the house had only been brought to bed the preceding evening. Great praise was due to Lieutenant Hall, R. N., and to Mr. John Campbell, for their benevolence and humanity to the poor sufferers. At Newbiggen, considerable damage was also done by the same storm. The tide was extremely high at Sunderland, and accompanied by a tremendous sea, which caused great destruction to the cliffs at the edge of the moor, immense portions of which were washed away; the sea rushed up the banks with such force, as in many places to extend twenty yards on the moor. The ship Brancepeth Castle, in making the harbour, carried away a great portion of the temporary pier; and on the following day, the remainder of the pier was carried away by a Scots brig; both vessels were injured.

1825 (*Feb. 6*).—A new chapel belonging to the Baptists, called the Salem chapel, was first opened for divine service at South Shields, and sermons were preached by Captain Gardiner, and the Rev. J. Stratton, of Sunderland, after which the sum of £16. 8s. 6d. was collected in aid of the building fund.

1825 (*Feb.* 20).—A neat and commodious Methodist chapel was opened at Sadberge, near Darlington, by Messrs. Atkinson and Noel, local preachers at the latter place.

February 23.—A numerous and highly respectable meeting of the inhabitants of North and South Shields, was held at the Northumberland Arms inn, North Shields, when it was resolved to erect an iron bridge of suspension over the river Tyne, between these towns. Captain Samuel Brown, R. N., the original projector of suspension bridges, having made the necessary surveys, gave in his estimate of £93,000., which the gentlemen friendly to the project determined should be disposed of in shares of £100. each, and in consequence, plans and elevations were engraved and shares disposed of. Mr. William Chapman, of Newcastle, civil engineer, made several reports, and Mr. Telford, of London, was also consulted, both of which gentlemen confirmed its practicability; yet this project has been laid aside, and two steam ferries have since been established. *See March* 1st, 1829.

February 26.—Died, at Bishop Auckland, Grace Cummins, aged 100 years.

March 12.—In the night, Etal mill, near Wooler, occupied by Mr. George Oswald, was burnt down. The origin of the fire could not be accounted for.

March.—Labourers employed in digging for gravel in a field at Hartburn, near Stockton, discovered two human skeletons, one at the depth of two feet, the other at the depth of four feet, and about ten yards asunder. From the appearance of the bones, it was evident they had lain long in the ground, and had been full-grown persons.

April 10.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Elspeth Manners, aged 102 years. About a year before her death she had a great toe amputated, and bore the operation with great firmness.

May 1.—His grace the duke of Northumberland, had an audience with his majesty, and took his leave preparatory to his grace's embassy to Paris, to be present at the coronation of the king of France, as the representative of the king of England. The next day, their graces the duke and duchess with their suite, left Northumberland-house, and arrived at Canterbury the same evening, whence they proceeded to Bourne-place, the residence of the honourable and venerable Archdeacon Percy, where they dined and slept, and proceeded the following morning to Dover. His grace's suite, which consisted of ten carriages, had arrived there the day before. His grace was received with every demonstration of respect, and the usual discharge of artillery from the heights. A numerous retinue of servants and horses had arrived at Payne's York hotel, some days previous. His majesty's steam vessels the *Lightning* and *Comet*, had arrived in the harbour a day or two before, for the purpose of conveying the duke across the channel, and in which his grace and suite embarked amidst the huzzas of thousands of the spectators, who thronged the pier heads. On leaving the harbour, the cannon again resounded from the batteries,

to which the Brazen, man-of-war, lying in the roads, and intended as a convoy, commanded by Captain George Willis, replied, by firing a royal salute as the steam vessels approached her.

1825 (*May 1*).—Died, at Cullercoats, Mrs. Mary Barnes, widow, aged 101 years.

May 3.—The foundation stone of the north pier of an intended chain bridge, over the river Tyne, at the west boat, near Hexham, was laid.

May 11.—Messrs. C. and G. Green, ascended in the car attached to their magnificent balloon, from the Nun's-field, in Newcastle, amidst an immense concourse of spectators. The day being cloudy they were soon out of sight, but to gratify the spectators, they descended so as to be again visible, they then ascended and taking a north west direction, alighted near Newbiggen, about four miles from Newcastle. On the 23d, these gentlemen again ascended from the same place, but from an accident in the valve, it was with difficulty that they reached a field near the white-lead works, at Low Elswick, near Newcastle. The balloon having dragged the splendid car over a wall and through a hedge, all its splendid decorations were torn off it and nothing left but the wicker work. Failing in this attempt, these gentlemen again ascended on the 30th of the same month. The balloon rose most majestically from the Nun's-field, in an almost perpendicular direction to a great height, and bore away to the south, crossing the whole county of Durham, and finally alighted near the Tontine inn, Yorkshire, a distance of 48 miles from Newcastle. The daring aéronauts having secured the balloon, proceeded to Stockton, where they were greeted on their arrival by an immense multitude of people. June 16th, Messrs. Green ascended from Stockton. The balloon took a westerly direction for about four miles, when it met with a counter current, which brought it back again over the town, where it appeared stationary as if for the double gratification of the great concourse of people assembled at that place to witness it. It then bore away rapidly for the mouth of the river Tees, but meeting with another current, it was carried in the direction of Acklam-hall, between which place and Morton, the intrepid voyagers landed in perfect safety, after being absent from the earth forty-five minutes. July 5th, Mr. George Green ascended from the Palace-green, in the city of Durham. The weather being fine, a great concourse of people had assembled. The balloon though not above half inflated with gas, ascended a few minutes after four o'clock, and had a most beautiful appearance. It took a south-eastern direction, and after remaining in the air for about thirteen minutes, descended in a field of wheat on the estate of John Gregson, at Whitwell Grange, about three miles from Durham. The descent was seen with the naked eye, by several spectators from the city. A post chaise and four, which was dispatched immediately after the descent, returned to Durham with Mr. Green and a friend, soon after six o'clock. The greatest elevation of the balloon this short voyage was 2,200 feet as proved by the fluctuation of the mercury. July 14th, Messrs.

G. and W. Green made a fourth ascent from the Nun's-field, in Newcastle. The day was uncommonly fine, and the aëronauts rose in splendour to a great height. After being about twenty minutes in the air, they landed with ease and safety in a field near Long Benton, about three miles from Newcastle. Messrs. Green again visited Newcastle, on the 8th of September, 1831, *which see*.

1825 (*May 21*).—Died, in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, after a lingering illness, Mr. Thomas Charlton Sykes, a native of Newcastle, in the 22d year of his age. He was a young man of considerable talent, and, at the time of his last severe attack, was clerk and reporter to the *Durham County Advertiser* newspaper. He was a member of the Society for Literary Discussion, and other similar societies formed in Newcastle by young men whose pursuits were of a literary cast. He was the author of various pieces in prose and verse, some of which appeared in the local journals. At the time of his death he had made very ample collections towards a complete account of the "Grand Musical Festival" held in Newcastle in 1824, and much material towards a Life of Dr. Percy, author of that beautiful ballad "*The Hermit of Warkworth*." These collections not long before his death he committed to the flames. Mr. Francis Humble, the proprietor of the *Durham County Advertiser*, paid the following tribute to his memory in that journal of May 28th, 1825:—"Died, at Newcastle, Mr. Thomas Charlton Sykes, late clerk in the office of this paper. He possessed a bold, vigorous, and well-cultivated mind, a rapid conception of ideas, and a fine poetic taste, which gave promise of future excellence, but a delicate constitution, unadapted to the sedentary habits he had acquired through a love of study, gradually gave way and destroyed his earthly prospects. After a lingering illness, which he bore with great composure and resignation, he expired without a struggle on Saturday last, at the early age of 21, deeply lamented by his friends, and regretted by all who knew him." The editor of the *Durham Chronicle*, Mr. J. H. Veitch, also announced his death in terms highly honourable to the memory of the deceased.

June 8.—The foundation stone of a new light-house, erected by the Trinity board of Newcastle, was laid on the *Longstone rock*, one of the Fern islands, on the coast of Northumberland. February 15th, 1826, the light was exhibited for the first time in this new light-house.

June 15.—The foundation stone of a new bridge at the confluence of the rivulets at the head of the Old Burn-lane, Hexham, was laid in masonic form by Mr. Matthew Wilson, saddler, amidst a great number of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood.

June 20.—The infant school at the Orphan-house, in Newcastle, was opened, and upwards of 70 children from 2 to 5½ years of age were entered. Other infant schools have since been established at Newcastle.

June 23.—The foundation of the new building for the Lying-in-Hospital was laid in Bridge Street, Newcastle. Mr. Dobson

was the architect of the building. Messrs. Welsh were the builders. Mr. Joseph Price, of Gateshead, presented an elegant stained glass window, which is placed over the entrance door. The present professional attendants are Drs. Smith and Bulman; surgeons, Messrs. Greenhow, Frost, and Hardcastle, the latter of whom is also secretary. Matron, Mrs. Mary Jefferson. Since the commencement of this charity on the 1st of October, 1760 (*see vol. i. page 229*), to and with the 30th of September, 1830, the following poor married women have been placed upon the books:—3551 discharged in health from the hospital; died in the hospital, 22; never appeared at the hospital after having been placed upon its books, 266; remaining on the books, 19; total, 3858.

1825 (*June 26*).—About half-past two o'clock on the morning (Sunday) an alarming fire was discovered in the manufactory of Mr. Harvey, tobacconist, Head of the Side, Newcastle. Engines were sent for with all possible dispatch, and they continued to play till about half-past five o'clock, when, by great exertions, the fire was overcome. The presses and a cutting-engine were destroyed, and the whole of the building, from the ground-floor to the roof, was entirely consumed. It was with the greatest difficulty that Mr. Harvey's shop, and Mr. Wylie's flax-warehouse, adjoining, were preserved from the flames.

July 3.—This evening, an explosion took place in the Juliet pit, belonging to Messrs. Lamb and Co., at Harraton Outside, near Chester-le-street, by which dreadful accident eleven human beings lost their lives, and all the horses down the shaft were destroyed. Had it happened a few hours later, the number of pitmen and boys in the mine would have been forty or fifty. No cause could be assigned for this lamentable catastrophe.

July 8.—The new Scots church at Hexham, was opened for public worship. Opening services were performed also on the Sunday and Monday following, when excellent discourses were delivered by the Rev. Robert Lundie, from Kelso; the Rev. W. Rentoul, from Maryport; and the Rev. A. Richardson, from Longframlington. The Rev. J. Richardson, after a solemn prayer and reading the scriptures, delivered a very animated address. The ground on which the church was built was presented by T. W. Beaumont, esq., M. P. It was built on the plan of Mr. Green, architect, of Newcastle.

July 26.—Died, at Preston, near North Shields, Mrs. Mary Verdy, aged 100 years.

August 3.—In consequence of existing differences between the shipowners and seamen of the port of Sunderland, the latter, on the above day, attempted forcibly to prevent ships going out to sea, when a most melancholy affair took place. A ship called the *Busy*, was going out with a number of special constables on board, to protect the crew, when the men assembled in great numbers, and attempted to prevent her by boarding. They soon overpowered the civil force, when a troop of the 3d Light Dragoons from the barracks at Newcastle, who had been sent for some time before, to

assist in preserving the peace on the river Wear, were called upon to assist the magistrates in getting the ship out to sea. They succeeded in driving the intruders out of the ship, but in passing the north sand where ships are obliged to keep close in shore, those on board were assailed with stones and other missiles, from a numerous mob of men and women, which they bore with patience a considerable time, but, one of the soldiers having been severely wounded in the face, they were ordered to fire in their own defence, which they did at first over the heads of the rioters, but without the desired effect. Seven or eight shots were then fired at the crowd, by which three men were killed outright, and another was mortally wounded, and died next morning. Several were wounded. After this affray the town remained in great commotion for some time, but, more military having been procured from the barracks at Newcastle, the mob dispersed without any further mischief. The names of the four men who were killed were William Wallace, Thomas Aird, John Dovor, and Ralph Hunter Creighton. The coroner's verdict upon the three former was *justifiable homicide*; but, upon the latter, who was a carpenter, a verdict was returned of *accidental death*, he not being engaged in the riot, but a spectator. In a day or two after, another man, a labourer, died, in consequence of having received a shot when going from his work.

1825 (*Aug. 17*).—Died, at Monkwearmouth-shore, Margaret Nicholl, aged 104 years.

August 19.—Died, in the Freeman's Hospital, in the Manorchare, Newcastle, of which he was governor, aged 63, Mr. John Marshall. He was a native of Newcastle, and educated at the Free Grammar School of that town, under the late Rev. Hugh Moises, A. M. Mr. Marshall, who was an excellent classical scholar, had been at sea the early part of his life, and afterwards, in consequence of having been jilted by dame fortune, "and with her departed *all* his summer friends," became a schoolmaster. He was the author of "*The Village Pedagogue, a Poem, and other lesser pieces, together with a Walk from Newcastle to Keswick.*" 12mo., 1817. This deservedly esteemed little volume went through a second edition.

August 29.—The lord bishop of Oxford consecrated a new chapel of ease at East Rainton, in the parish of Houghton-le-spring, in the county of Durham.

September 1.—The lord bishop of Oxford consecrated the new church of Falstone, in the county of Northumberland. This is one of the livings into which the large rectory of Simonburn, was divided by act of parliament.

September 6.—Died, at Blyth, Mr. William Carr, blacksmith, aged 69 years. He was six feet four inches in height, and weighed 24 stones, and was supposed to be one of the strongest men in England when in his prime. Various surprising stories are told of his feats of strength.

September 12.—His royal highness the duke of Brunswick and suite passed through Newcastle from Scotland.

September 27.—The Stockton and Darlington railway was

formally opened by the proprietors for the use of the public. It is 25 miles in length. To give *eclât* to the public opening of the road a *programme* was issued, stating that the proprietors would assemble at the permanent steam engine below Brusselton Tower, about nine miles west of Darlington, at eight o'clock. Accordingly the committee assembled at the bottom of Brusselton engine-plane, near West Auckland, and here the carriages, loaded with coals and merchandise, were drawn up the eastern ridge, by the Brusselton engine, a distance of 1960 yards, in $7\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, and then lowered down the plane on the east side of the hill, 880 yards in 5 minutes. At the foot of the plane the locomotive engine was ready to receive the carriages, and here the novelty of the scene, and the fineness of the day, had attracted an immense concourse of spectators, the fields on each side of the railway being literally covered with ladies and gentlemen on horseback, and pedestrians of all kinds. The train of carriages was then attached to a locomotive engine, built by Mr. George Stephenson, in the following order:—1. Locomotive engine, with the engineer (Mr. George Stephenson) and assistants. 2. Tender, with coals and water; next, six waggons, loaded with coals and flour; then an elegant covered coach, with the committee, and other proprietors of the railway; then 21 waggons, fitted up for passengers; and, last of all, six waggons, loaded with coals, making, altogether, a train of 38 carriages, exclusive of the engine and tender. Tickets were distributed to the number of near 300, but, such was the pressure and crowd, that both loaded and empty carriages were instantly filled with passengers. The signal being given, the engine started off with this immense train of carriages, and, such was its velocity, that, in some parts, the speed was frequently 12 miles an hour, and, in one place, for a short distance, near Darlington, 15 miles per hour, and, at that time, the number of passengers were counted to 450, which, together with the coals, merchandise, and carriages, would amount to near 90 tons. After some little delay in arranging the procession, the engine, with its load, arrived at Darlington, a distance of $8\frac{3}{4}$ miles, in 65 minutes. Six waggons loaded with coals, intended for Darlington, were then left behind, and, obtaining a fresh supply of water, and, arranging the procession to accommodate a band of music and passengers from Darlington, the engine set off again, and arrived at Stockton in 3 hours and 7 minutes, including stops, the distance being nearly 12 miles. On the arrival of the procession at Darlington, it was received with bursts of applause. By the time the cavalcade arrived at Stockton, where it was received with great joy, there were not less than 600 persons within, and hanging by the carriages, which excited a deep interest and admiration. Part of the workmen were entertained at Stockton, and part at Yarm, and there was a grand dinner for the proprietors and their most distinguished guests, to the number of 102, at the Town-hall in Stockton. Thomas Meynell, esq., of Yarm, was in the chair, and the mayor of the town acted as vice-president. The first rail of the Stockton and Darlington railway was laid by Thomas Meynell, esq., of the

Friarage, Yarm, near St. John's Well, Stockton, where the depôt for coal is now erected, on the 23d of May, 1822, with public ceremonies and rejoicing.

1825 (*Oct. 2*).—The farm-house upon the lands of Dukesfield, near Bamborough was discovered to be on fire. Mr. Lilburn, the tenant, and the heads of his family, had gone to the meeting on the morning, and had left the house in charge of the servant girl. She and the younger part of the family having walked into the fields, it was long before the fire was discovered, and, before assistance could be procured the house was nearly enveloped in flames. The whole of the furniture (some trifling things excepted), the linen, the wearing apparel, a stock of wool, and cash in notes to a considerable amount, were entirely destroyed. Fortunately the house had no connexion with the outbuildings and stack yard.

October 5.—An explosion took place in Hebburn colliery by which four men were suffocated by the after-damp. The carburetted hydrogen gas took fire at a steel mill which was employed while the Davy lamps were cooling.

October 12.—A pair of spectacles, in a steel case, were taken out of the maw of a salmon in the fish-market, Newcastle.

October 18.—Died, at Hexham, Mrs. Jane Rutherford, in her 106th year.

November 6.—This morning (Sunday), at a little before five o'clock, an alarming fire broke out in premises occupied by Mr. Charlton, tallow-chandler, at the foot of Gallowgate, adjoining St. Andrew's church-yard, Newcastle. From the tallow-house it communicated to a stable on one side, and a dwelling-house on the other. The stable and tallow-house quickly fell a prey to the devouring element, together with two horses in the former. The dwelling-house was in such a state of conflagration, that the inmates were glad to escape, almost in a state of nudity, with their lives. Every article of furniture and wearing apparel belonging to these people were completely destroyed.

November 14.—Died, at Edinburgh, John Fuller, esq., M. D. Dr. Fuller was the author of "*The History of Berwick-upon-Tweed, including a short Account of the Villages of Tweedmouth and Spittal, &c.*" with engravings, 8vo., 1799. In 1824, the doctor issued prospectuses for "*A General View of the Border History of England and Scotland*," but which was not published in his life time.

November 16.—A new chapel, in connexion with the church of Scotland, called St. George's chapel, was opened for divine service in Villiers-street, Bishopwearmouth.

November 19.—Died, in Grindon-chare, Newcastle, Abigail Gray, aged 101 years. She retained all her faculties to the last.

1826 (*Jan. 2*).—The new fish-market, at the east end of the Guildhall, Newcastle, was first opened by a *grand procession* of the dealers, attended by a band of music. A dinner was given to them on the occasion, and All Saints' bells rung many a merry peal.

January 3.—A horrid murder was committed upon the body of an inoffensive man named Joseph Hedley, aged 75 years, residing

alone in a cottage in Homer's-lane, near Warden, in Northumberland. As he had long followed the business of a quilter, he was well known in that neighbourhood under the name of "*Joe the Quilter*." His fate was much lamented by all who knew him, and the parish of Warden offered one hundred guineas for the apprehension of the murderer, but who has to the present time (1831) eluded detection. He had made a vigorous resistance, as he had not less than forty-four wounds upon his body. Mr. A. B. Wright, of the theatre, Hexham, wrote some elegiac verses upon this most atrocious and bloody deed.

1826 (*Jan. 6*).—A large box arrived in Newcastle in the night by the Telegraph coach from Leeds, weighing upwards of sixteen stones. Suspicion having been excited by similar boxes having passed through Newcastle, the officers of police were sent for, and, on opening the box, they discovered the dead body of a man whose stature must have exceeded six feet. He was apparently between forty and fifty years of age, large boned, with dark hair and aquiline nose. The corpse had not become putrid. The package was addressed to Mr. Simpson, 61, Princes-street, Edinburgh." A coroner's inquest was held on this *subject* on the following morning, and a verdict returned that "no marks of violence appear on the body, but by what means he came by his death, no evidence doth appear." The body was afterwards interred.

January 10.—A Subscription Fancy Ball took place in the large assembly room, Newcastle. The company formed a splendid assemblage—many of them being very fancifully dressed, and without masks. They began to assemble about half-past nine o'clock, and at ten the ball was led off by Matthew Bell, esq., of Woolsington, and Miss F. Loraine. The quadrille dancing commenced with Richardson's new and favourite set; and was kept up with great spirit until one, when the company were ushered into the small assembly room, where an abundant and elegant cold collation was set out, of which the decorations were greatly admired. The viands, ornamental confectionary, and jellies, were excellent, particularly the latter, which were most beautifully transparent. The whole reflected great credit on the industry and skill of Miss Brodie. The repast went off with the greatest hilarity and satisfaction, during which the company was entertained by the music of the band from the Barracks, which also welcomed them on their entrance. After supper dancing was resumed, and kept up until a late hour in the morning. There were 212 ladies and gentlemen present. The following is a list of the principal names, characters, costumes, &c.:—Mr. W. H. Wilkinson (Durham), a Dalmatian; Mr. Henry Hewitson (Seaton Burn), an Old English Gentleman; two Misses Ekins and Miss Flounders, Italian Peasants; Mr. Wake, a Chinese; Isaac Cookson, jun. esq., a Private Gentleman; Miss Kirsopp, fancy dress; Mr. Anderson (banker), very splendid court dress; Miss Brathwaite, Miss Buddle, Miss Burnet, fancy dresses; Mrs. and Miss Rutherford, plain; two Misses Rogerson, plain; Mrs. Smart and the two Misses Russell

(Heworth), fancy dresses; Mrs. Collinson (Gateshead), a Lady from the Island of Minorca; Miss Price, the Queen of Malacca, incog. (black-faced); Miss Dobson, a French Peasant; Mr. Dobson, Colonel in the Egyptian Service; Mrs. Fry and Miss Julia Collinson, elegant fancy dresses; Mr. and Miss James, Highland dresses; Mr. George Cram, Ali Bey; Mrs. Cram, Morgiana; Miss Cram, Clari; Mr. P. G. Ellison, a Royal Archer; Miss M. Ellison, Variella, in the Weathercock; Miss C. Werge, a Scots Girl (very neat); Mrs. T. E. Headlam, very splendid full dress; Mrs. Wm. Brandling, fancy dress; Mr. W. Brandling, uniform; Mr. Bell (Woolsington), uniform; Mrs. Bell, Prussian Lady; Mrs. James Anderson, fancy dress; Miss Huthwaite, full dress; Mr. Adamson, Colonel's Uniform; Mr. Bates, regimentals; Miss Bates, Emma; Mrs. J. Atkinson, Private Lady; Mr. William and Miss Smith (St. Lawrence), fancy dresses; Mr. M'Intyre, splendid Highland Chieftain; Mr. and Mrs. Hedley (Benridge), elegantly dressed; Miss Hick, fancy dress; Mr. Keenlyside, court dress; two Misses Headlam and Miss Connelly, fancy dresses; Mrs. and Miss Jobling (Newton Hall), full dress; Mr. Jobling, court dress; Mrs. Trevelyan and two Misses Trevelyan, splendid full dresses; Mr. and Mrs. Aynsley, full dress; Mr. Hood and the two Misses Hood, Spanish Peasants; Dr. Headlam, an Old Gentleman; General Terrot, uniform; Mr. Bigge (Linden), Northumberland Hunt full dress; Mr. Coulson, jun. (Blenkinsopp), regimentals; two Misses Coulson, Bohemian Peasants; Miss Airey, fancy dress; Mrs. Shadforth, Turkish costume; Colonel Coulson, uniform of Northumberland Militia; Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., Lady Ridley, two Misses Ridley, Mr. Ridley, and Mr. Wood, full dresses; Col. Bowwater, court dress; Mrs. General Laye, Spanish Lady; Mr. Laye, jun., Spanish Nobleman; Miss Brumell, Polish dress; Mr. Brumell, Old Gentleman; Miss Loraine, fancy dress; Miss F. Loraine, fancy dress; Mr. J. Cookson and Misses C. full dresses; Mr. Bates and Miss Bates, fancy dresses; Mrs. Losh, full dress; Miss Hannah Smith, Tyrolese Peasant; Miss E. Cookson, Danish Lady; Miss Ellison (Charlotte-square), full dress; Mr. Noel Ellison, fancy dress; Mr. Samuel Parker, Cossack; Mr. and Mrs. Dixon Dixon, full dresses; Mrs. Dale, Lapland Bride; Mr. and Mrs. Cuthbert, fancy dresses; Major Thompson, uniform; Miss Parker and Miss Surtees, Italian costume; Miss C. Heron, an Arabian Princess; Mr. J. Smith, Turkish costume; Miss Smith and Miss Ogle, Spanish dresses; Miss Purvis, Hungarian; Misses Brumell (Morpeth), fancy dresses; Mr. Tathwell, an Old Englishman; Miss Tathwell, elegant Grecian dress; Mr. John Brandling, court dress; Mr. Edward Loraine, Jack Tar; Mr. Hutchinson, splendid college dress; Mrs. J. Davidson, full dress; Mr. Jackson, Lord of the Isles; Mr. C. Jackson, an Old Gentleman, time of Charles the First; Dr. Bulman, court dress; Mrs. and the Misses Bulman, fancy dresses; Mr. George Bulman, uniform; Mr. C. J. Bigge, Spanish Grandee (very elegant); Mr. Otter, court dress of Louis XIV.; Mr. J. G. Clarke, Spanish Grandee; Mr. J. Jobling, West Indian Planter; Mr. M. L. Jobling,

a Saracen ; Mrs. Clarke, full dress ; Mr. Ker, jun., plain dress ; Mr. R. C. Askew, court dress ; Miss Losh, very splendid ; Mr. J. L. Loraine, an elegant Old Gentleman of 1711 ; Mr. Brandling, uniform of the Gosforth Cavalry ; Mrs. Brandling, full dress ; Miss Milner and Miss Lambert, fancy dresses ; Mr. Jaques, Swiss Peasant ; Mr. and Mrs Allgood (Nunwick), full dresses ; Colonel Bell, fancy dress ; Mr. Henry Bigge, admirable as Dr. Pangloss ; Mr. W. J. Grey, jun., Spanish Nobleman ; Mr. Thomas Pemberton, court dress ; Mr. Ettrick, a Gentleman of the Old School ; Miss Ettrick, fancy dress ; Mr. Anderson and two Misses Anderson, Spanish costume. The Officers of the First Light Dragoons were in their uniforms ; and the Mayor of Newcastle Arch. Reed, esq., wore his official chain.

1826 (*Jan.* 17).—The first coals from the new colliery on the Springwell estate, belonging to the Right Hon. Lord Ravensworth, and partners, were conveyed down the new railway (about five and a half miles in length) to the river Tyne, and put on board the ship *Industry*, at the improved new drop, erected on the Jarrow Grange estate of Cuthbert Ellison, esq. About half-past eight o'clock on the morning, the excellent band composed of his lordship and partners' colliers at Mount Moor, in their new uniforms, with cockades at their caps, marched to the pit playing several pleasing airs, and followed by a great concourse of spectators, amongst whom was an individual nearly 100 years old, (who had expressed a wish to see the first coals go from the pit, having when a girl, on the like occasion, seen the first coals sent from the old colliery to the Wear,) for the accommodation of whom the agents sent a carriage to convey her thither, and gave her a cockade which she displayed at her bonnet. The procession left the pit at 9 o'clock in four waggons, fitted up for the accommodation of the band, the agents of the colliery, and several ladies and gentlemen visitors, with a numerous concourse of persons on foot, and with eight chaldron waggons of coals, descended down the inclined plane, and preceded by the band, passed onwards towards the Tyne. On the coal waggons crossing the turnpike road from Sunderland to Newcastle, the company gave three cheers, the band playing "*God save the king.*" On the procession arriving at Monkton, it was joined by some of the agents of the other collieries of his lordship and partners, and other gentlemen, and finally arrived at the top of the inclined plane, near the river, about half-past eleven o'clock, where numbers had assembled to join the procession, and view the operation of shipping the coals, which are called Lord Ravensworth and Partners' Peareth's Wallsend. After placing the band in front of the cottages built on the spot, the coal waggons descended down the plane, one at a time, and landing upon the platform of the drop, were lowered on to the deck of the ship. The emptying of the first waggon was announced by a discharge of cannon, returned by a like discharge from the opposite shore. After the emptying of the coal waggons, the agents with a few select friends proceeded to Newcastle, and partook of an excellent dinner provided on the occasion by Mr.

Richardson, of the Three Indian Kings, on the Quayside. Many local toasts were given, with songs; one composed for the occasion, and sung by captain Welsh, gave much satisfaction.

1826 (*Jan. 17.*)—On the morning a terrible explosion of fire-damp, took place in Jarrow colliery, near South Shields, Durham, belonging to Thomas and Robert Brown, esqrs., of London, by which thirty-four men and boys were killed; and some others much burnt. Forty-five horses and two asses were also killed in the mine. The explosion took place in the Bensham pit, which had been recently sunk to the lowest seam. The cause could not be ascertained, as none who were in the place where the blast originated, were saved. It appeared on the coroner's inquest, on the body of Richard Bell, one of the sufferers, that the overmen and deputies had inspected all the workings on the morning of the day on which the accident occurred, and the wastemen had gone through the waste. There was no appearance of danger, but on the contrary, the pit seemed well ventilated, and in a perfectly safe state. The number down the pit at the time was forty-eight.

1826 (*Jan. 22.*)—Died, at the vicarage house, in Newcastle, the rev. John Smith, A. M., vicar of that town, in the 61st year of his age. He was a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and a member of the senate. About the year 1790, he was appointed second master of Westminster School, under the rev. Dr. Vincent, he was afterwards presented with the living of Silkstone, near Barnsley, in Yorkshire, and in 1804, succeeded to the vicarage of Newcastle, upon the demise of the rev. J. D. Carlyle. During a constant residence for nearly 22 years upon his cure, he made many friends by his kind and hospitable disposition. He was an example of christian charity, for he not only "did not seek his own," but in many instances returned what he received, and gave away privately to the extent of his means, while to the public charities of the place he was a liberal benefactor, and promoted many of them by the most vigilant personal attention and unceasing exertions. February the 1st, his remains were interred in a vault in St. Nicholas' church-yard near the library door, with every token of respect from great numbers of his sorrowing parishioners. The procession was previously arranged in the vestries of the respective churches, and set out from the vicarage about one o'clock. It was altogether on foot. The beadles with their staves led the way, followed by mutes, next came the boys and girls of St. Nicholas' charity schools. The caps of the former were trimmed with crape, and they had also a crape rosette on the left arm. The dresses of the girls were also similarly trimmed. They were followed by the several parochial officers, select vestrymen, &c. of the town. The clergy of the established church followed. The procession was closed by a number of the private friends of the deceased, among whom were the mayor of Newcastle (George Forster, esq.), and several of the corporate body. The churchwardens, &c., wore scarfs and hatbands, the rest of the gentlemen hatbands only. From an early hour on the morning till the interment, the great bells of the several churches tolled;

the flag on the castle was displayed half-staff high, and the shops in the line of the procession were all closed. The concourse of spectators was immense, and so eager were they to witness the interment that a great portion of the wooden paling on the south side of the church-yard was broken down by the pressure. A whole-length black profile portrait of this divine is published.

1826 (*Jan. 23*).—Died, at Loosing Hill, near Ravensworth, Durham, Mrs. Elizabeth Brown, aged 100 years, enjoying her memory to the last.

This month, died, at Dalton, near Hexham, Mrs. Hannah Middleton, in the 102d year of her age.

February 1.—Died, after a few hours' illness, at his seat, Gosforth House, in Northumberland, Charles John Brandling, esq., M. P. for Northumberland, and lieutenant-colonel of the Northumberland and Newcastle cavalry. He was interred, on the 10th of February, at Gosforth church, with great solemnity. At an early period of the day, carriages of the wealthy and powerful began to arrive at Gosforth house; and many persons on horseback and on foot went from Newcastle and the neighbourhood. At two o'clock, the body, in a splendid black coffin, was placed in the hearse; four mourning coaches then drew up at the hall door, and received the sorrowing mourners; and about half-past two the solemn procession moved for the final depository. The procession occupied nearly half a mile in extent. There were, including the hearse, upwards of thirty vehicles, nearly one half of them drawn by four horses each. After these came, in deep mourning, a troop of the Newcastle cavalry. A number of his tenantry closed the line. On arrival at the church-yard, where a stone vault of considerable dimensions had been constructed, the body was met by the rev. Mr. Walker, who performed the service in a very impressive manner. The pall was supported by sir M. W. Ridley, M. P., sir Charles Loraine, sir C. M. L. Monck, barts., R. J. Lambton, C. W. Bigge, and C. J. Clavering, esqrs. As chief-mourners appeared the rev. R. H. Brandling, John Brandling, R. W. Brandling, Thomas Creevey, M. P., R. Burdon, Matthew Bell, William Linskill, Walter — Fawkes, G. Wentworth, and Charles Ogle, esqrs. After these followed a number of gentlemen with scarfs and hatbands. The church was crowded to excess, indeed the whole way from Gosforth House to the church was lined with sorrowing spectators.

February 8.—Died, in Silver-street, Newcastle, Mr. James Allan, aged 102 years.

February 16.—The Free Masons' Lodge, No. 26, in the Groat Market, Newcastle, was consecrated and dedicated with great solemnity. They had removed from their lodge, in the Bigg-market, to these rooms, which had previously been occupied by the Literary and Philosophical Society, that body having removed to their new building in Westgate-street.

February 17.—The foundation of a light-house, at the east end of the pier at the mouth of Berwick harbour, was laid by Admiral Stow.

1826.—The beginning of this year, the numbering of the houses and shops in the various streets, &c. of Newcastle, was commenced.

March 18.—A fire broke out at the Lonning-burn, a farm in the parish of Elsdon, Northumberland, in the occupation of Mr. William Armorer, of the Dunns, which entirely consumed the farm-stead and two cottages. Great exertions were used by the neighbours to stop the conflagration without effect. The stack-yard and other premises were saved by the wind being favourable.

March 21.—Died, in St. Nicholas' poor-house, in Newcastle, Jane Young, aged 104 years. She was the daughter of Alexander and Margaret Young, and baptized at the parish church of Yet-holm, on the 2d of March, 1722.

March 25.—Died at his house in Cavendish-square, London, after an illness of six weeks, the right reverend Shute Barrington, lord bishop of Durham, in his 93d year. After an education at Eton and Oxford, where he was for some years Fellow of Merton college, he entered into holy orders, was appointed chaplain to King George II., and afterwards to King George III. In 1761, he was made canon of Christ-church, Oxford, and a few years afterwards residentiary of St. Paul's. In 1769, he was consecrated bishop of Llandaff, and continued in that see till 1783, when he was translated to Salisbury. In 1791, he succeeded Dr. Thomas Thurlow, in the opulent see of Durham. August 4th, his lordship made a public entry into his diocese when he was met at Croft bridge about noon, by Sir Hedworth Williamson, bart., attended by all his officers, as well as the officers of the see, and a number of gentlemen, to congratulate his lordship on his safe arrival in his diocese. His lordship was also met by John Erasmus Blackett, esq., as substitute for Sir Edward Blackett, bart., lord of the manor of Sockburn, who presented his lordship according to ancient custom with a falchion.* His lordship, with his attendants, proceeded to Darlington, where they dined. At Farewell-hall, about two miles from the city of Durham, his lordship was met by the chapter, where the Rev. Dr. Sharp, as sub-dean, addressed his lordship in a hand-

* The manor of Sockburn is held under the bishop of Durham, by knight's service and the following ceremony :—At the first entrance of the bishop, the lord of Sockburn, or his agent, meets him in the middle of the river Tees, at Nesham, where the river is fordable (otherwise on Croft-bridge), when he presents a falchion to the bishop, as an emblem of his temporal power, and repeats the following words :—“ *My lord bishop, I here present you with the falchion, wherewith the champion Conyers slew the worm, dragon, or fiery flying serpent, which destroyed man, woman, and child ; in memory of which, the king then reigning, gave him the manor of Sockburn, to hold by this tenure, that upon the first entrance of every bishop into the county, this falchion should be presented.*” The bishop takes the falchion in his hand, and immediately returns it to the person that presents it, wishing the lord of Sockburn health and a long enjoyment of his manor. Croft-bridge, over the river Tees, consists of six large arches and one smaller arch on the southern side. The structure is maintained by the north-riding of the county of York, and by the county of Durham. The blue stone which marks the boundary, rests on the pier of the third arch from the Durham side. Sockburn church, a small neat structure, contains the arms and monumental inscriptions in memory of various of the Conyers family.

some speech, to which the bishop made a most elegant reply. The company then resumed their carriages, and at the head of Old Elvet, were met by the banners of the incorporated companies of the city of Durham, music, &c. At the entrance of the market place, the mayor and aldermen, were ready to congratulate his lordship. The procession then went forward to the cathedral, where his lordship leaving his carriage, was conducted to the Consistory or Spiritual Court, and vested in his pontificals, upon an elevated place, where the virgin Mary's altar formerly stood. In leaving the Consistory, his lordship advanced to the body of the church, where he was met by the prebendaries, minor-canon, lay-singers, and choristers, who preceded his lordship to the high altar, singing "*Te Deum*." After a short prayer, his lordship was led to his throne; divine service then began, which was read by the rev. the dean of Rochester, in the course of which, *Ebdon's* "*Magnificat*," and "*Nunc dimittus*," and *Purcell's* "*I was glad*," were sung by the choir, at the conclusion of which, his lordship gave his blessing to the congregation. Service being finished, his lordship was conducted as before to the great north door of the cathedral, where the prebendaries took their leave; and, being preceded by the high sheriff, and attended by many of the gentlemen, his lordship retired to his castle, and the day following, received the compliments, of a great number of the clergy and gentlemen of the county.

1826 (*March 25.*)—A tryst fair for the sale of cattle, horses, sheep and swine, was held in Hexham, by order of the lord and lady of the manor (Mr. and Mrs. Beaumont), on the above day for the first time, and to be continued on the same day in every succeeding year.

March 29.—Between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, a lunar rainbow was observed in the atmosphere at Newcastle, the stars shining bright through an unclouded sky, and no moon visible; an arch of a dull white or nebulous light, clearly defined, gradually extended itself from west to east, stretching itself over the town. The two points towards the horizon being much narrower than the middle. The stars were visible through this luminous vapour, which continued about two hours, and then gradually dissolved away. It exhibited none of the flickerings usual with the Aurora Borealis.

April 3.—Two men whose united ages amounted to 202 years were interred at Houghton-le-Spring, Durham, viz.:—John Drew, of that place, aged 91 years, and Thomas Fletcher, of Philadelphia, in the same parish, aged 111 years. The latter retained his senses entire till within a few hours of his death. His grandfather died at the age of 120 years, and his sister 102 years. His uncle was 105 years when he died, and he could read the smallest print the day before his death. He was in the train band of Mr. Shafto, of East Shafto, in the year 1745.

April 14.—Died, at Sunderland, Jane Dryden, widow, aged 103 years.

April 23.—Dr. William van Mildert, was installed bishop of

Durham, at London. July 21st, he arrived at the city of Durham, and was installed in the cathedral there.

1826 (*May 4*).—Being ascension-day, the mayor of Newcastle, according to ancient custom, surveyed the boundaries of the river Tyne. In the evening, on the return of the barges, &c., from Newburn, and a little above the Crooked Billet, a small boat wherein were twelve persons, was unfortunately run foul off and upset by a steam-vessel, and a young man and a young woman, named John Lambton and Mary Gregg, lost their lives. Coroner's verdict, *accidental death*. Deodand on the steam-boat, £5.

May 30.—An explosion took place in Townley Main (Stella) colliery on the river Tyne, by which lamentable occurrence thirty-eight human beings lost their lives.

June 12.—A fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mr. Moor, as a sail-cloth manufacturer in Queen-street, Sunderland, which at first had a very alarming appearance, but, by the timely arrival of the engines. and the assistance of those present, it was got under without communicating to any of the adjoining premises.

June 13.—About ten o'clock in the forenoon a fire broke out in a tenanted house in Hornsby's-chare, Newcastle. It bore at one time a very alarming aspect, owing to a quantity of tar, in a merchant's cellar underneath, having caught fire, but, by the prompt arrival of the engines, and the praiseworthy exertions of the neighbours and individuals who had arrived at the spot, the fire was confined to the premises where it broke out, which were totally destroyed, with almost all the furniture of the inmates, who barely escaped with their lives.

July 1.—In consequence of some language which was given on the hustings at Alnwick on the preceding day during the general election for Northumberland, a duel was fought on Bamborough sands between John George Lambton, esq., M. P. for Durham, attended by the Hon. General Grey, and Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, esq., attended by Mr. Plunkett, when, after an exchange of shots, the affair was terminated to the satisfaction of the seconds.

July 6.—Died Mrs. Jane Watts, wife of Captain Watts, R. N., and youngest daughter of the late George Waldie, esq., of Hendersyde Park, Roxburghshire, and Forth House, Newcastle. This lady was distinguished by uncommon literary talents, and by her fine original paintings from nature, which commanded universal admiration in the exhibitions of the Royal Academy at Somerset-house, and were ranked with the works of the first artists of the day. Mrs. Watts was the author of "*Letters on Holland*," "*Rome in the 19th Century*," and a very interesting novel entitled "*Continental Adventures*," 3 vols., &c. &c.

July 26.—Died, at his residence at West Jesmond, near Newcastle, aged 68 years, Sir Thomas Burdon, knight, lieut.-col. commandant of the Tyne hussars, and of the Second Durham local militia, one of his Majesty's justices of the peace for Northumberland, and formerly an alderman of Newcastle, and twice mayor. His lady, who had been dead some years previous, was a sister of the Right Hon.

the Earl of Eldon and the Right Hon. Lord Stowell. Sir Thomas, who had been a staunch supporter of Mr. Liddell during his canvass for Northumberland, was distinguished for his loyalty, hospitality, and charity; and was universally esteemed for the urbanity and kindness of his manners and heart. Sir Thomas had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him at Carlton-house by the Prince Regent on the 14th May, 1816.

1826 (*Aug. 5*).—An iron, or suspension bridge, over the river Coquet, at Hepple, in Northumberland, was opened. It was projected by Mr. John Wilson, of Rimside. Its greatest span 90 feet, and was calculated to support a weight of six tons without suffering permanent alteration. The expense of erection did not exceed £30.!!

August 7.—A hackney coach was commenced running at Gateshead, in the county of Durham.

August 14.—A newly-erected extensive paper-mill at Scotswood, near Newcastle was discovered to be on fire. Two engines from Lemington were immediately procured, and a person sent express to the Newcastle Fire-office for the engines belonging to that establishment, but such was the nature of the materials of the mill, that the premises were soon a heap of burning ruins. The flames had a most terrific appearance, and ignited a part of an adjoining coal-staith, as also a hedge and some trees in the vicinity. Towards the evening, and after the engines had left, the large stock of paper and other materials, covered by the falling of the walls, &c., again burst into flames, and, owing to a strong southerly wind, burnt with great fury, when several cottages occupied by the workmen, and a coal-tar manufactory adjoining, were set fire to, and, had it not been for the exertions of the workmen in extinguishing the burning sheets of paper that were flying in all directions, they must have become a prey to the devouring element. An engine had again to be procured from Newcastle, and the fire was at length extinguished, after a destruction of property to the amount of £8,000.

August 31.—St. James's chapel, Blakett-street, Newcastle, was first opened for divine worship. The Rev. Thomas Brown, of St. John's, Glasgow, officiated on the occasion, and a collection was made in aid of the funds of the chapel. Sunday, September 3d, there were sermons on the morning, afternoon, and evening, by the Rev. Thomas Brown, when collections were again made in aid of the funds. September 6th, the Synod of the Presbyterian church in England, in communion with the church of Scotland, met and constituted in this chapel. It was the first synod, constituted in England, in communion with the church of Scotland.

September 5.—About six o'clock on the morning, an explosion took place in Heworth colliery, when three men and two boys were unfortunately killed, and ten others scorched and bruised. This explosion dashed to pieces the stoppings, brattices, and props, and brought down the roof in several places. Some of the men who were working in a distant part of the mine, were unhurt and even

unconscious, until they came to bank, of the accident having happened.

1826 (*Sept. 23*).—The lord bishop of Durham consecrated a new chapel of ease and a burial-ground attached, at Shincliffe, in the county of Durham.

September 28.—A public accommodation was given to the inhabitants of Newcastle, by the addition of minute hands to the dials of the clock in the tower of St. Nicholas' church. This is the only public clock possessing this advantage. The additional work was executed by Mr. William Tweedy, clock and watch maker, an ingenious mechanic, for Mr. John Smith, the keeper. The dials were also new gilt, which altogether had an imposing appearance. This clock was first lighted with gas December 5th, 1829, *which see*. This clock was made in the year 1761.—*See vol. i, page 236*.

October 1.—The town of South Shields was first lighted with gas.

October 27.—An explosion took place in the high pit of Benwell colliery, near Newcastle, by which two young men, named Joseph Whitfield, and William Peel, were killed almost instantaneously. Several men were much injured. There were upwards of 100 men and boys in the mine at the time. The cause assigned for this explosion was, that Peel went with a candle into a part of the mine where he and the rest had been cautioned not to go.

November 16.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth, Nicholas Haswell, aged 102 years.

November 20.—The foundation stone of the Suspension bridge across the river Wansbeck, near Morpeth, was laid. A roll of parchment, containing the origin and issue of the matter, in a neat latin inscription, a newspaper, coins, memoranda, &c., in a bottle, hermetically sealed, were deposited in a cavity of the stone. Robt. Clark, esq., of Highlaws, after securing the cavity, mounted the stone, and, in a brief and appropriate address, pointed out the advantages of the undertaking, and wished prosperity and long duration to its execution. The stone was lowered amid loud cheers, firing of guns, and a merry peal from the neighbouring clock tower, and success to the bridge was most heartily drunk by the assembled populace.

December 2.—Died, in High Friar-street, Newcastle, Jane Robson, a poor woman, aged 100 years.

December 9.—Died, at his father's house, in Barnardcastle, after a few months' illness, Mr. William Vasey, aged 24 years. This young man, who had been a clerk to an attorney in Newcastle, evinced considerable talents as a poet, a critic, and a moralist, and although he did not leave much behind him, yet what he did leave reflects honour on his memory; his last piece is an "*Address to the Breeze*," written during his return from France, whither he had been in search of health; but this was denied, and soon after his return, he fell a victim to a rapid consumption which consigned him to an early tomb.

This year, a wooden bridge across the river Tyne, near Haltwhistle, 272 feet in length, was completed; Mr. John Dobson,

architect. It cost £700. raised by subscription of the vicar of Halt-whistle, and the neighbouring proprietors.

1827 (*Jan. 4*).—Died, at Bishop Auckland, Durham, Parkinson Wouldhave, aged 108 years.

January 8.—On the arrival in Newcastle, of the melancholy intelligence of the death of his royal highness the duke of York on the 5th, the bells of the different churches commenced tolling at eight o'clock on the morning, the flag on the castle was raised half-staff high, and the flags of the various vessels at the Quay were similarly hoisted. The churches were in a few days hung with black, and every token of mourning exhibited. *January 20th*, the day of the interment of his royal highness at Windsor, Newcastle exhibited an appearance of great solemnity. By a signal gun from the castle, at eight o'clock on the morning the bells commenced their solemn tolling, and the vessels in the river hoisted their flags half-mast high. The market, according to the request from the mayor, having been held on the Friday, the shops were all kept shut. The Society of Friends showed their loyalty and attachment to the present reigning family, in having their shops and offices generally closed. At the Custom-house, Literary and Philosophical Society, &c., all business was suspended. There were prayers at all the churches, and the mayor, sheriff, aldermen, and other members of the corporate body, all in full mourning, preceded by their usual officers bearing the regalia, which were bound with black crape, went in procession to St. Nicholas' church, where service was most impressively performed by the Rev. the Vicar. The members of the Orange and Odd Fellows' Lodges went in procession to this church, displaying the ribbons of their orders. During the day various solemn peals were rung. At four o'clock minute guns were commenced firing from the castle, which were continued until five o'clock, when the solemnities of the day ceased. *A circumstantial account of this observance, with copies of all the bills, &c., was published by John Sykes.*

January 16.—A new chapel, denominated the Union chapel, was opened at Blyth, for divine service, by the Rev. Mr. Gilmore, of North Shields, and the Rev. Mr. Duncan, of Sunderland, each of whom delivered appropriate and eloquent discourses. The chapel was furnished with every necessary appendage, through the persevering activity of a few ladies, in a manner honourable to themselves and expressive of their gratitude.

February 17.—The Betsy Cains, of Shields, having sailed from that port with a cargo for Hambro, met with a heavy gale from E. S. E. and was obliged to bear up for Shields harbour, but when on Tynemouth bar (where the sea was breaking tremendously heavy), she struck, and was afterwards driven upon the rocks, near the Spanish battery. The crew were taken out of the vessel by the Northumberland life-boat, which went off to her through the breakers in the most gallant style. In 1688 this vessel brought over to England William, Prince of Orange, and was then called the Princess Mary; for a number of years she was one of Queen

Anne's royal yachts, and at that time considered a remarkably fast sailing vessel. It was for some time expected that she would be got off, but the weather continuing tempestuous she finally went to pieces. The loss of this (supposed to be the oldest British) vessel, excited considerable curiosity, not only to view her in a wrecked state, but to obtain some part of her in token of the event for which she was most remarkable, the bringing over of King William III. Individuals in Shields received letters from several Orange Lodges, and persons in various parts of the country, requesting to procure them pieces of the vessel.

1827 (*Feb. 22*).—A young man named John Margetts, apprentice to a surgeon of North Shields, having been sent by his master, Mr. Greenhow, with some medicine to a sick person about five o'clock on the morning, most mysteriously disappeared, and has not since been heard of. He was about nineteen years of age.

February 26.—About four o'clock in the afternoon, Alexander Brodie, the oldest wherryman on the river Tyne, plied a small boat on the Quay, Newcastle, to the amusement of numerous spectators, the Tyne having risen several feet higher than ordinary, owing to the rapid thaw of the snow, &c. Many of the cellars on the Quay-side were inundated, the water extending considerably up the Broad Chare.

The beginning of this year the names of the streets, &c., in Gateshead were first put up.

March 1.—The wind corn-mill belonging to Mr. Butterfint, in Hendon-lane, near Sunderland, was destroyed by fire, which broke out between six and seven o'clock, and the wind being very high, baffled every attempt to extinguish it, although the parish engines were speedily on the spot, and well supplied with water. The mill was insured for £600. supposed only half its value.

March 12.—Early on the morning, a rock of some tons weight was separated from its long abode, and came down with a tremendous thundering noise from a height of twenty yards, against a house in Bridge-gate, Barnardcastle, occupied by persons named Green and Dickinson. Instantly the side of the house gave way, and two children who were sleeping in a lower room were for some time buried in its ruins, but were taken out unhurt. When Dickinson awoke, who occupied an upper room, his bed was kept up by a holdfast to the other wall, the floor having given way, and the other side of the house having disappeared, he hung in his bed like a tenant of the air; but through assistance, all the inmates were rescued from their perilous situation.

This month, a neat and commodious Wesleyan Methodist chapel was opened at High Coniscliffe, near Darlington. Sermons were preached by the Rev. Messrs Leach and Lord, after which £10. 15s. were collected towards the building of the chapel.

April 8.—A beautiful full-length figure of Christ, in stained glass, by Mr. John Gibson, of Newcastle, was placed in the great east window of St. Nicholas' church in that town, at the expense of the corporation. It is an enlarged copy of a painting by Mr. Wm.

Dixon, and the faithful manner in which Mr. Gibson has transferred it to the glass, evinces great skill as an artist, whilst the richness and pureness of his colours attest his proficiency in this very difficult art. Mr. Gibson, since that period, has produced many elegant and admired specimens, which have been introduced into windows, &c., of both public and private buildings. Glass staining can now be no longer considered as one of the lost arts.

1827 (*April* 18).—As the workmen in the quarries at Fulwell, near Sunderland, were removing a large block of limestone into a cart, and finding it too large to lift, they broke the stone in two pieces, when, to their astonishment, an ask, about five inches long, with brown back and freckled belly, moved out of a cell in the solid block!

May 5.—Died, the Reverend Richard Wallis, A. M., rector of Seaham, and perpetual curate of St. Hilda, South Shields, Durham. Mr. Wallis was the eldest son of the Rev. Richard Wallis, vicar of Carham (brother of the Rev. John Wallis, the historian of Northumberland), and of Elizabeth, sister of the Rev. John Rotheram, rector of Houghton-le-spring. Mr. Wallis married the only daughter of the Rev. John Robinson, rector and patron of the advowson of Seaham, by whom he had one son, John Wallis, A. B., of University College, who died unmarried, and three daughters, two of whom are living unmarried, and the third is the wife of Thomas Surtees Raine, Esq. Mr. Wallis was distinguished through life by the strictest integrity. His disposition was retired, and he buried in the shade talents and acquirements of no common order. He cultivated music, painting, and engraving; his copies from the old masters, and his original sketches (many of which are preserved by his family), possess high merit; his knowledge of mechanics was very considerable, and several light essays and *jeux d'esprit*, in prose and poetry, attest his taste in composition. In his own circle, his discrimination and almost instinctive insight into character, and the originality and raciness of his observations, made him a most interesting companion. Mr. Wallis was the author of "*Memoirs of the Rev. John Rotheram*," see vol. i., page 350, and of "*The Group, a Poem*," the plate of which includes portraits of the two Rotherams (brothers), of the author, his wife and child, his sister Agnes, afterwards wife of the Rev. Christopher Robinson, and of some other relatives. He met the gradual approach of age and infirmity with calm composure and real christian resignation. There is a fine portrait of Mr. Wallis painted by R. Edmondstone, and engraved by G. H. Phillips at the expense of his family for private distribution. Mr. Wallis lies buried, by his own desire, under a spreading sycamore on the south side of Seaham church-yard, near the brink of the romantic dean. In this cemetery also rest the remains of Joseph Blacket, an unfortunate child of genius, whose last days were soothed by the generous attention of the family of Milbanke. Mr. Blacket, who served an apprenticeship to his brother as a shoemaker, died on the 23d of August, 1810, at the early age of 24 years. Mr.

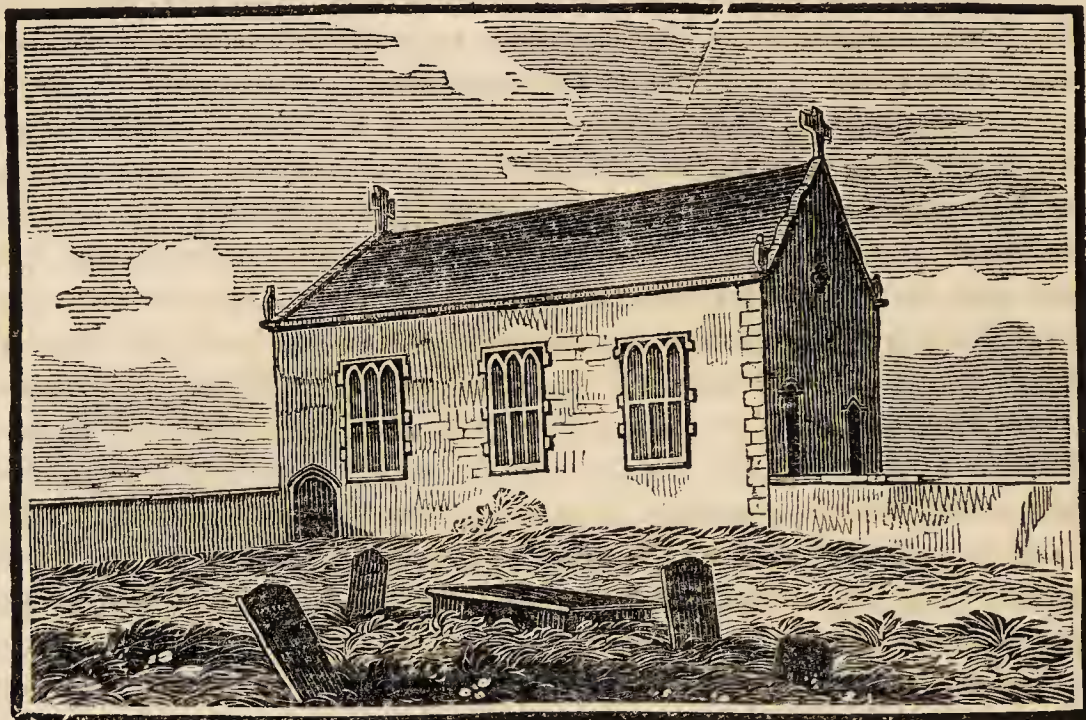
Wallis paid this unfortunate poet great attention, and particularly in the capacity of a clergyman during his last moments. See "*The Remains of Joseph Blacket, edited by Mr. Pratt,*" in 2 vols., 1811, with a portrait.

1827 (*May 17*).—A very curious discovery was made in the cathedral at Durham. In carrying into effect certain alterations and improvements at the eastern end of the church, and in that part known as the shrine of St. Cuthbert, an old oaken coffin was found, containing the remains of some distinguished personage. This discovery was made in the spot where it is recorded that the body of St. Cuthbert was deposited, when it was taken from its fere-tory, and interred, at the period of the Reformation. A large inverted slab, inscribed with the name of a monk, covered the vault, which was about seven feet in length by four in breadth. Upon the removal of the slab a chest was seen, apparently of oak, the lid and great part of the sides of which had fallen in from decay, and was strewed upon the floor. When the mass of powdered wood, of this and two inner coffins, was taken away, an entire skeleton was found, swathed in vestments of linen and silk, which were also much perished. A portion, however, of a stole and two maniples was still remaining, richly worked in silk and gold tissue, and affording some valuable dates. A small square tablet of wood, covered with a thin lamina of silver, was placed upon the body. There were also found in the coffin the fragments of an ivory comb of large dimensions, and a small gold cross, &c., &c. At the lower end of one of the outer coffins were laid several detached bones, a full grown skull, and the cranium and ribs of one or more children. After the remains had been inspected by several gentlemen, they were placed in a new shell, in the position in which they were found, and the vault was closed soon after. A very interesting and circumstantial account of the above discovery has been given to the world by the Rev. James Raine, of Durham, under the title of "St. Cuthbert." It is in quarto, with illustrations, and satisfactorily proves, from a comparison with the account of a similar investigation in 1104, preserved in manuscript in the library of the Dean and Chapter, that the remains here discovered were those of St. Cuthbert, and that the story of his incorruptibility is a monkish invention.—See *May 27th*, 1831.

May 22.—Died, in the poor-house at Sunderland, Wm. Geddes, aged 101 years.

May 24.—Being Ascension day, there was an unusually grand shew to accompany that worthy magistrate, Archibald Reed, esq., mayor of Newcastle, in the annual survey, according to ancient custom, of the boundaries of the river Tyne. This festive occasion was attended with some melancholy events. On the preceding day, at Messrs. Losh, Wilson and Bell's foundry at Walker, whilst the workmen were trying some new guns which they had prepared to salute the barges on the following day, one of the men named Andrew Percy was in the act of striking the ramrod with a hammer when the gun exploded, and his bowels were so lacerated

that he died soon after reaching the Infirmary. Another man was hurt, but his wounds were not serious. On the Thursday, as the barges were passing Mr. Reay's raff-yard, at Walker-quay, on their return from Shields, another man, named Thomas Bell, was so dreadfully injured by the bursting of a large gun, that he died in a few hours after being removed to the Infirmary.



1827 (*May 29*).—The new catholic chapel at Darlington, though then in an unfinished state, was opened to the public, when high mass was celebrated by the Right Reverend Doctor Smith, and an eloquent and impressive sermon was preached by the Reverend Richard Gillow, of Ushaw College. The solemn service was attended by a numerous and respectable assemblage of persons of different religious persuasions, who testified their gratification by a subscription of £31. 14s. 10½*d.* towards defraying the expenses incurred by the erection of the sacred edifice. This is a very neat and commodious place of worship, 70 feet long and 40 feet wide, and designed by Ignatius Bonomi, esq. It is in the gothic style, yet simple and unadorned. It may not, perhaps, be improper here to state, that Darlington, considering the forbidding circumstances in which it has hitherto been placed, furnishes an extraordinary instance of the increase of catholics. About forty years ago, the whole catholic population did not exceed twenty individuals, who were accustomed to creep silently into a garret to avoid the insults of bigotry, when they were about to worship God according to the ancient rites of their church. At present, *independent of any influx of strangers, and though till the year 1824, they were attended but once a month by a priest from Stockton*, the catholics of Darlington alone amount to about 200 souls. The congregation from the country rather exceeds that number, and this circumstance, added to the bad state of the old chapel, has rendered necessary the present erection. The Rev William Hogarth is the incumbent. The above view is from the south-east.

1827 (*May 30*).—A neat and commodious chapel, for the use of the Independent denomination, was opened for public worship at Staindrop, when the Rev. W. H. Stowell, of North Shields, the Rev. J. Jackson, of Green Hammerton, and the Rev. J. Parsons, of York, preached on the occasion. The collections were liberal.

May 31.—The new Catholic chapel, at the east end of Old Elvet, in the city of Durham, and dedicated to St. Cuthbert, was opened with great ceremony. High mass was performed by the Rev. Dr. Smith, bishop of Bolino, and vicar apostolic of the northern district, assisted by the Rev. R. Gillow, of Ushaw College, the Rev. Thomas Gillow, of North Shields, and others; and an appropriate sermon was delivered by the Rev. James Wheeler. A band of about fifteen musicians from Madame Tussaud's exhibition and the theatre, executed one of Mozart's grand masses with great effect. About 400 persons were present, and a collection made in aid of the building, amounting to upwards of £49, which was ultimately increased before the close of the day by private contributions, to upwards of £90.

May.—At this time the church at Newburn was undergoing considerable external and internal repairs, much of it being rebuilt; the windows had all new stone mullions, and the altar window was considerably improved by stained glass being inserted.

June 7.—Died, at Birch's Nook, near Stocksfield-hall, Northumberland, John Green, husbandman, aged 101 years. His descendants, at the time of his death, amounted to above 100 persons.

June 8.—The London General Steam Navigation Company's Steam Packet, The Hylton Jolliffe, with two engines of 100 horse power, arrived for the first time at Newcastle from London, which place she left on the 6th of June. She sailed from Newcastle on the 9th of the same month on the return to London, and to continue sailing between those places during the summer season.

June 12.—A new bowling green was opened in Newcastle, on which occasion the members (about 20 in number) dined in a temporary hotel upon the ground. Mr. Crawhall acted as president, and Mr. George Burnett, as vice-president. The bowlers were honoured with the company of Mr. Mayor, Mr. Sheriff, and Mr. Town Clerk. The bowling-green is in the north-west side of the town without the walls, on a part that was formerly called the Mayor's-field, as also the Warden's-close, adjoining the Bath-lane.

June 13.—A fire broke out in the workshop of Mr. Edward Swinton, cabinet-maker, in Fenkle-street, Alnwick. The engines belonging to the town were quickly on the spot, but the flames were not extinguished before the house was totally destroyed.

June 14.—A fire broke out in a joiner's shop at Lumley Forge, near Chester-le-street, which destroyed the building and its contents.

June 18.—The foundation stone of a chapel of ease to Bishopwearmouth church, was laid in John-street, by the Rev. Dr. Wellesley, the new rector, who had arrived at that place on the

16th, and was inducted into the living on the 17th. This edifice was consecrated by the bishop of Durham on the 14th of October, 1829, *which see*.

1827 (*June 23*).—A handsome silver medal was presented to Thomas Wilson, of Holy Island, pilot, by the Royal Humane Society, for his meritorious conduct in rescuing the lives of his fellow creatures from a watery grave when shipwrecked.

About this time, at Springwell colliery, near Ayton Banks, the trunk of an ash tree, measuring about four feet in length, was sawn into four divisions, when there was discovered in the very heart of the tree, a perfectly formed bird's nest with one egg. The trunk appeared perfectly sound with the exception of the part which contained the nest.

July 3.—The lord bishop of Durham held visitations and confirmations for the first time in various of the towns of his diocese, commencing with his visitation at the city of Durham on the above day, and ending with his confirmation at Stanhope on the 3d of August.

Same day, an experiment was made at the head of the Quay, Newcastle, with an apparatus belonging to the North British Fire Office, for the purpose of rescuing persons from the upper part of a house which is on fire below. It was a pole and a basket worked by mechanical means in the street, and completely answered the intended purpose.

July 4.—The remains of the duke of Gordon, attended by several mourning coaches and six, decorated with all "the pomp of heraldry," arrived at the Queen's Head inn, Newcastle, and departed northwards the next morning. It was rather a singular circumstance, that on the 11th as the remains approached Gordon Castle, the east wing of that structure was in flames, and with its contents was destroyed. The duke's apartments were in this wing.

Same day, during the race week at Newcastle, Mr. Baird's bay colt, Freebooter, by Champignon, out of Orange Boven, when near ending his exercise on the morning of this day on the race ground, dropped down and immediately expired. He was full of life and play at the setting off. The rider escaped without injury.

July 5.—Two men were burnt to death at Morton lime kilns, near Staindrop. They had attended the kilns for several years, and on this day as a kiln did not sink after they had added some fresh stones to it, they incautiously went upon it to make it do so, and unfortunately they both slipped in; one of them to his waist, and the other nearly over head.

Same day, the lord bishop of Durham, and suite, arrived for the first time after his elevation to that see at the Mansion-house, Newcastle. His lordship held a visitation at St. Nicholas' church, the next day, and afterwards entertained the clergy, the mayor, sheriff, &c., at the Assembly-rooms. The following day his lordship held a confirmation in the same church. The Mansion-house was his lordship's residence during his stay in that town.

1827 (*July 9*).—The lord bishop of Durham held a confirmation at Ryton, and on the afternoon of the same day laid the foundation stone of the new church of St. Paul, at Winlaton, in that parish. There was a masonic procession and a numerous assemblage of spectators. This church was opened and consecrated, September 9th, 1828, *which see*.

July 12.—The Scots church at Monkwearmouth, in connexion with the established church of Scotland, was opened for public worship. The Rev. John Wood, A. M., commenced the service; afterwards the Rev. Henry Gray, A. M., of Edinburgh, and the Rev. Robert Balfour Graham, of North Berwick, preached impressive sermons on the occasion. This elegant building is from a design by Mr. John Dobson, of Newcastle, architect.

July 16.—About eleven o'clock on the forenoon, a column of dust, &c., arose, as if caused by a whirlwind, at the south-east corner of the ballast-hills, near Newcastle. It assumed the form of a pyramid, about 70 feet high, and moved in a direction towards the row of houses on the north-east side of the open space in front of the burial ground, against which it broke and nearly smothered a poor woman who was carrying a basket of earthen ware. It was partly composed of small stones and cinders, and was as broad at the bottom as a large hay stack.

July 20.—About four o'clock on the morning, nine men were burnt by the fire-damp in the Charles Pit, Lumley colliery; some of them severely. The accident was caused by a young man named Foster, going to a wrong part of the pit with his candle. There were upwards of 200 men and boys in the pit at the time. August 3d, Robert Oughton, one of the sufferers, died in consequence.

Same day, the burgesses of Berwick in guild assembled, unanimously voted an honorary ticket of the freedom of the borough to the lord bishop of Durham, then in that place on his first tour through his diocese. The worshipful the mayor, and bailiffs, town-clerk, and coroner, accompanied by David Logan and John Steavenson, esqrs., waited upon his lordship at the inn, and presented him with it. His lordship expressed himself highly gratified by the honour.

July 23.—The committee of the common council of Newcastle, to whom the subject had been referred, determined upon the model on which the new Magdalen chapel was to be constructed at the Barras-bridge, at the north entrance of that town, in lieu of the old chapel of St. Thomas, at the north end of Tyne-bridge, then about to be taken down to widen the entrance from the southward. Three models were exhibited, and one of the two brought forward by Mr. Dobson, was preferred. The model, which was of the Gothic style of the 13th century, was executed under Mr. Dobson's directions by Mr. Welsh, junior, of Gateshead. The other model was furnished by Mr. Green, of Newcastle, architect, to whom the decision was officially communicated in very handsome terms by the town-clerk, stating that the committee considered

his design as highly creditable to his talents, although the resolutions to which they had come, not without difficulty, occasioned the adoption of another.—*See October 19th, 1830.*

1827 (*July 31*).—The corner stone of a new Presbyterian chapel was laid at Warkworth, in Northumberland, for the congregation in connexion with the united secession church of Scotland, by the Rev. David Patterson, of Alnwick, in the presence of the committee of managers, and several of the respectable members from Alnwick and the neighbourhood. There was a deposit of the several coins of George IV., and several silver coins of an ancient date, also a MS., bearing the date of the building, names of the committee, architect, and contractors for the building, inclosed in glass, sunk in the stone, and covered with a plate of iron. Sunday, May 1st, 1828, this building was first opened for divine service, on which occasion the Rev. James Pringle, of Newcastle, preached on the morning; the Rev. Henry Lawson, of South Shields, in the afternoon, and the Rev. Robert Pollock, in the evening, when collections were made towards defraying the expenses of the building. The *Ann and Jane*, steam-packet, was engaged to take a large party from Newcastle, which place they left about five o'clock on the morning. She put into North Shields and received a considerable acquisition of passengers. The day was uncommonly serene and fine, and the passengers were gratified with the sight of a King's ship, *The Lion*, which they passed pretty closely, hovering off the coast of Northumberland. The *Ann and Jane* paid her the requisite honour of lowering her flag on passing. Being of the party, I was much gratified with the day's excursion, having, in company with the Rev. Ralph Davison, and Mr. Thos. Atkinson, builder, visited the ruins of Warkworth castle, after which we had a very pleasant sail up the river Coquet, and inspected the ruins of the far-famed "*Hermitage of Warkworth*," rendered interesting by Dr. Percy's ballad of "*The Hermit of Warkworth*." *See vol. i. page 38.* Though now in ruins,

"This calm retreat, of every one the praise,
 "Could greater beauty boast in former days;
 "The nodding walls and scattered ruins shew
 "How great it was some centuries ago;
 "But faint conjectures must supply the place
 "Of real beauties which long years efface;
 "For now, alas! this fabric once so gay
 "Records no story but its own decay."

August 4.—Under this date the following notice was given:—
 "NOTICE TO FARMERS."—The hiring of labourers and reapers for the harvest will not be permitted as heretofore at Sandgate, or within any part of the liberties of Newcastle, on the Sabbath day.—Archibald Reed, mayor." In consequence of this notice a bill was posted stating that a hiring would be held at the Westgate, on Sunday, the 19th, after church hours, which took place accordingly, for the first time, and has since been continued.

1827 (*Aug.*).—This month, great damage was caused in Glendale Ward, Northumberland, by immense floods.

August.—In the foundation of an old house, which had this month been pulled down in Tynemouth, large quantities of human bones were dug up, many in a perfect state.

August.—At this time there was residing in good health at Ferryhill, Durham, a woman, named Catherine Moralee, then in the 107th year of her age. At the time the great flood carried away Newcastle Bridge (1771), she was confined to her bed, in childbirth, and was carried out of the house to a place of safety.

September 5.—An explosion of gas took place at Fawdon colliery, near Newcastle, when three young men were much burnt, two of whom shortly afterwards died.

September 8.—John Chisholm, apprentice to a butcher in Berwick, was sent to the Magdalen Field to bring in a sheep for slaughter. He caught it near the Redoubt, where the beach is very precipitous; the animal began to struggle, and, being on the verge of the precipice, not less than forty or fifty feet high, both tumbled over. Fortunately for the lad, the sheep was undermost, and was killed on the spot. The young man was completely stunned by the fall, and received some very severe contusions. He was carried home in a state of insensibility, but finally recovered.

September 9.—A new Wesleyan Methodist chapel was opened at North Cowton, near Darlington, when sermons were preached by the Rev. N. Bann, of Barnardcastle, and Mr. John Kepler, of Darlington, and collections were made in aid of the funds.

September 24.—His grace the duke of Wellington visited Stockton, on which occasion, at the entrance to the High-street, a lofty triumphal arch was erected, formed of laurel, &c., surmounted by seven flags, with appropriate mottoes. As he had to dine at Wynyard, the seat of the marquis of Londonderry, there was a grand procession of the nobility, gentry, &c., in carriages, and on horseback, to meet the hero of Waterloo, which they did at Yarm bridge. His grace immediately entered Lady Londonderry's carriage, which was drawn by six horses; the procession then returned to Stockton. Previous to entering that town the horses had been taken from the carriage in which he rode, and he was drawn by a number of men, wearing blue ribbons, inscribed "*Wellington for ever,*" through the triumphal arch to the Town-hall, amidst the firing of cannon, &c. On the arrival of the illustrious stranger near to the Town-hall, the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of Stockton, and the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of Hartlepool, in their robes, approached the carriage to present an address from each of those corporate bodies; and colonel Grey also advanced with an address from the inhabitants of Stockton and its neighbourhood; to each of which his grace replied. The illustrious party afterwards partook of a cold collation in the assembly-room which was most tastefully and appropriately fitted up for the purpose. After many healths had been drunk, his grace intimated to the mayor of Stockton that a party was engaged to meet him at dinner at Wynyard;

his grace and the other visitors then rose, and, bowing to the company, took leave amidst the most deafening cheers. The party assembled by invitation of the marquis of Londonderry to meet the duke of Wellington at dinner, were the Earl and Countess Bathurst, Earl Grey, marquis of Douro, the bishop of Durham and his lady, Lords Beresford, Ravensworth, and Castlereagh, Hon. and Rev. Dr. Wellesley, Hon. Henry Thomas Liddell, Sir John and Lady Ann Beckett, Sir Roger and Lady Sophia Greisley, Sir Henry and Lady Emily Hardinge, Sir Thomas Lawrence, Sir Henry Browne, Sir Cuthbert Sharp, Generals Aylmer and Seddon, Matthew Bell, esq., M. P., Rev. Dr. Phillpotts, R. Burdon, esq., Colonel Freeman-tle, Dr. Forbes, and Mr. Stapleton.

1827 (*Sept. 28*).—His grace arrived in Newcastle, where every preparation had been made to receive him. A temporary platform was erected in front of the Guildhall. It was of wood, but coloured to resemble stone; the steps and stage were covered with cloth. The Guildhall was decorated with flags, and several were suspended from the windows of private houses. The ships in the river had all their decorations floating in the air. A new flag was prepared for the Old Castle, containing 500 yards of cloth, the seaming of which extended the length of 1,500 yards. About half past two o'clock the Tyne Hussars, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Campbell, and the Northumberland and Newcastle Cavalry, and the dismounted troop, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Bell, mustered on the Town-moor, for the purpose of being inspected by his grace. The Lancers from the barracks kept the ground. A few minutes before three o'clock a guard of honour of the Lancers passed into Gateshead, to receive his grace. About an hour after the bells of Gateshead church announced that the duke was at hand, and, on his reaching the blue-stone on Tyne-bridge, the roaring of the Castle guns, and those of the ships in the harbour, and the ringing of the bells of all the churches, announced that the "*Hero of Waterloo*," was then making his entry into "*Canny Newcastle*." His grace had left Wynyard that morning, accompanied by most of the illustrious visitors who had assembled at that place on the 24th to meet him, and the whole had come forward in carriages to partake of the well-known hospitalities of the mansion-house of Newcastle. At the head of Gateshead the horses were taken from the open carriage which contained his grace, the marquis and marchioness of Londonderry, and Field-marshal Beresford, preceded by an excellent band of music, and twelve men bearing banners inscribed with the names of his grace's greatest battles; it was drawn by the people to the front of the platform on the Sandhill. His grace then alighted, and, handing out the marchioness, who leaned on his arm, ascended the steps, and received the hearty welcome and congratulations of the right worshipful Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, and the numerous group of members of the corporation, and other individuals. The other carriages drove up in rapid succession, and the distinguished visitors having alighted, they were received by the mayor, the aldermen, sheriff, and common council, and their friends.

The recorder then proceeded to read the address of the corporate body, after which the mayor presented the freedom of the town to his grace, who in very courteous terms returned thanks. The mayor then, filling a glass of wine, stepped to the front of the platform, and said, "*My friends and fellow-townsmen, I drink to the health of the illustrious hero, his grace the duke of Wellington.*" This was followed by three hearty cheers from the multitude assembled in front, amid the thunder of cannon and the ringing of bells. His grace briefly returned thanks. The vicar of Newcastle and several of the clergy were then introduced to his grace. Christopher Cookson, esq., then presented to his grace the address of the inhabitants in an elegant speech, in which he was much applauded. The duke seemed to listen with much attention, and as soon as Mr. Cookson had concluded, his grace addressed that gentleman and the other members of the deputation from the inhabitants of the town. The above proceedings having terminated, the carriages were ordered up, and the illustrious party took their seats, and, according to previous arrangements, the procession moved off to the moor, the carriage in which his grace sat being drawn by the populace. At the Barras-bridge his grace, accompanied by his gallant companions in arms (the marquis of Londonderry and Field-marshal Lord Beresford), alighted, and, mounting their chargers, proceeded to the Town-moor, to inspect the troops there assembled. It was near six o'clock before the review was finished, and, as the evening had set in foggy and wet, all hurried off the ground as quick as possible. The dinner at the Mansion-house was of the most splendid description. It was served up in three rooms, and the number that sat down was about 240. An excellent band of music played during the dinner, and the toasts, &c., given by the mayor, were announced to the rooms by the sound of the horn. To give the loyal and appropriate toasts and speeches during this festive occasion, would far exceed my limits. The ball at the Assembly-rooms was attended by 656 ladies and gentlemen. The merry dance was led off by Lord Ossulston and the marchioness of Londonderry, to the tune of "*The Keel Row.*" The duke of Wellington left the rooms about one o'clock for Ravensworth castle, where he slept. The carriage was attended by twelve torch-bearers on horseback, six before and six behind. By a request from the mayor, the shops were all closed on this occasion. A view of his grace's reception on the Sandhill was etched by Mr. John Archer.

1827 (*Oct. 4*).—The duke of Wellington visited Sunderland, when a grand dinner was given to him in the Exchange. The ladies of Sunderland and the Wearmouths having entered into a subscription to form a triumphal arch across the High-street at Sunnyside, a most elegant structure, covered with evergreens and flowers, was raised at their expense. On the top of the arch, in the centre, a standard, bearing the arms of the United Kingdom, waved majestically, and over it was a long streamer inscribed "*THE LADIES' WELCOME TO WELLINGTON.*" On each side of these were three flags, bearing the names of some of the duke's splendid victories. The arch was an object of universal admiration. At night

an effulgent star produced by gas, was suspended under it, and had a most brilliant and beautiful effect. On the front of the Exchange were the words "WELCOME TO WELLINGTON AND HIS BRAVE COMPANIONS IN ARMS." This building was also decorated, exterior and interior, with variegated lamps. The duke reached Sunderland about five o'clock; he was drawn into the town by a number of men who had taken the horses from his carriage. In passing under the triumphal arch, roses and crowns of laurel were dropped into the carriage of the duke by three young ladies dressed in white who were placed on the centre of the arch. The pressure in the High-street as the duke advanced towards the Exchange was really frightful. On arriving opposite to the Exchange, his grace alighted from the carriage, and, accompanied by the marquis and marchioness of Londonderry, &c., proceeded to a platform erected in the street, and was there received by George Robinson, esq., Sir Cuth. Sharp, Addison Fenwick, esq., and other gentlemen of Sunderland. An address was then read and presented to his grace by Mr. Robinson, to which his grace made a suitable reply. Three hearty cheers were then given by the gentlemen within the Exchange, and immediately answered by the multitude without. On leaving the platform, the distinguished visitors entered the Exchange, and about half past six o'clock proceeded to the spacious dining-room (news-room), which was very tastefully fitted up for the occasion. The marquis of Londonderry, at the request of the committee of management, took the chair, having on his right hand Earl Bathurst, the marquis of Douro, Lord Beresford, Hon. Captain Cochrane, Sir Henry Hardinge, Lord Castlereagh, and Mr. Stapleton; and on his left, the duke of Wellington, Lord Ravensworth, Sir Walter Scott, Hon. and Rev. Dr. Wellesley, Hon. H. T. Liddell, Sir Roger Greisley, and the Hon. Thomas Liddell. Sir Cuthbert Sharp filled the vice-president's chair. The number who partook of the dinner was 204; above 100 applications for tickets were refused, the arrangements not admitting a larger number than the party accommodated. After many healths and toasts and several excellent speeches, the chairman intimated to the company that his friends and himself must bid them farewell, their attendance at the ball-room being expected. The Assembly-rooms were crowded to excess, and the noble party did not retire until after one o'clock. The ball was opened by the marquis of Douro and the marchioness of Londonderry, and they were followed by the marquis of Londonderry and Lady Sophia Greisley.

During his grace's stay in the northern counties he visited the bishop of Durham, at Durham castle, where, with the nobility and gentry of the county, he was entertained with a very splendid banquet. The duke also paid a visit to John Buddle, esq., at Painsley, where he partook of a cold collation, and afterwards visited some of the collieries, in company with that gentleman.

1827 (*Oct. 4*).—A new Methodist chapel was opened for divine service at Hurworth, near Darlington, by Mr. William Dawson, of Bramham, near Leeds, and the Rev. Robert Wood, of York, after which £23. 10s. were collected in aid of the funds of the chapel.

1827 (*Oct.*).—A human skeleton, apparently that of a full-grown man, was found at Hayston-hill, near Houghton-le-spring. Two men employed at the limestone-quarry at that place having been ordered to remove the soil from a part of the hill opposite to the quarry, found the skeleton at a depth of about two feet from the surface. It was doubled up in a manner which left no doubt of murder having been committed. The teeth and a part of the hair still remained attached to the skull, and the marl around the skeleton was much discoloured, apparently by the recent decomposition of the body.

November 9.—The marquis of Londonderry was presented with the freedom of Newcastle, on which occasion, the bells of St. Nicholas' church rung several merry peals.

On this occasion, during the ringing of the bells of St. Nicholas' church in Newcastle, one of the pinnacles at the top of the lantern was observed to be in a very tottering condition, in consequence of which, a scaffolding was erected and the steeple examined, when it was found to require very considerable repairs. The iron cramps, from the coverings of lead having been torn off by the violence of the wind, were much decayed, and the cement with which it had been filled in various places about thirty years before, was in a great measure destroyed. It therefore became necessary that the steeple should undergo a thorough repair by the insertion of new cramps of copper instead of iron, and filling up with *Roman* cement those places which required it. Several of the small pinnacles were replaced with new mason work, and the vanes were repaired, and the whole of them re-gilt and the steeple pointed. Strong iron bands were put round the pinnacles at the corners of the tower, and inserted into the cross beams. These repairs continued until December 21st, when the scaffolding was taken down.

November 11.—Died, Thomas Graham, aged 102 years, he was a native of Northumberland, and was employed to drive a baggage waggon at the time of the rebellion in 1745.

December 5.—About eleven o'clock on the forenoon, as Mr. John Nicholson, son of Mr. John Nicholson, of Newcastle, and pupil of Mr. Henzell, surgeon, was riding along Sandyford-lane, near Newcastle, his horse ran away, and in making the turn at Sandyford-bridge, the animal struck the battlement and fell, but it immediately rose and leaped from the bridge into the rocky channel below, being a depth of 36 feet perpendicular. The unfortunate young man was so dreadfully bruised and injured, that he lingered in an insensible state until seven o'clock in the evening, when he expired. It is a singular fact, that when the horse struck the battlement, the coping stone which had "LAMBERT'S LEAP" cut upon it, was thrown off into the dean below and broken in pieces. There is a strange coincidence in these two accidents:—They were both young men, and the leaps had been both made at the same part of the bridge. The only difference is, that Mr. Lambert survived and his horse was killed, but in this instance the horse was so little injured, that a person rode it into town for assistance. *See September 20th, 1759, and August 18th, 1771, vol. i. pp. 225, and 281.*

1827 (*Dec. 9*).—Died, at Morpeth, aged 101 years, Elizabeth, widow of John Rutherford, who was son to Baldrick, the last Lord Rutherford, and heir to the title and estates.

December 24.—Died at Chelsea, near London, Mr. John Scott, the celebrated animal engraver. Mr. Scott, who was a self-taught artist was a native of Newcastle, where he served his time as a tallow chandler. His first piece which came before the public, was an engraving, in group, of the King, Queen, and Dauphin of France, for the "*Historical View of the French Revolution*," published by M. Angus, in 1796. This astonishing performance was done without any previous instruction. Mr. Scott afterwards removed to London, where he finished several hundreds of engravings, which are all in high estimation. "*The Sportsman's Cabinet*," "*The Sporting Magazine*," Mr. Daniel's "*Rural Sports*," and other works of a similar nature, owe much of their reputation to the exquisite delicacy and truth of Mr. Scott's graver. His engraving of "THE COTTAGE" in the "*Fine Arts of the English School*," is perhaps his finest piece, but what established his fame most were his two large prints "BREAKING COVER" and "THE DEATH OF THE FOX," after Gilpin and Reinagle. For these exquisite specimens of the art, Mr. Scott was on the 28th of May, 1811, presented with a large gold medal by the Society of Arts, and at the same time received a very high compliment from his royal highness the duke of Sussex, in the presence of a large assembly of the nobility and gentry. These prints are possessed by every lover of art who prize pictures of animals and field sports. In March 1821, this artist suffered a severe paralytic stroke, from which he never afterwards recovered. Mr. Scott published in 1823 a portrait of his mother, Mrs. Mary Scott. There is a good portrait of this artist painted by Mr. Jackson, R.A., and engraved by Fry.

This year, as the ship *Ann*, Captain Hutchinson, of Shields, was leaving Aberdeen for Newcastle, a pair of sparrows were observed to commence building their nest under the slings of the fore-yard, and what appears very remarkable, on the vessel's arrival at Dent's Hole, a little below Newcastle, the same birds went on shore and brought materials to finish their house.

1828 (*Jan. 11*).—Died, in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, after a short illness, aged 62, Mr. William Henderson, a native of Northumberland. In the early part of his life he worked as a pitman, and having received an injury, he was admitted a patient of the Infirmary, at Newcastle. Here he contracted an intimacy with one of the nurses of that institution, whom he married. On the erection of the House of Recovery in 1804, Mrs. Henderson was appointed matron, and Mr. Henderson became inspector, which situation he held until his wife's death. Having during the time he was attached to this institution, acquired (as he said) more knowledge of medicine than all the faculty put together, he added *Doctor* to his name, and published a very ludicrous and eccentric book entitled "*Every Man his own Doctor, in the treatment of Fever, and other important diseases incident to the human frame*."

Being the result of 22 years' practice and observation of the treatment and cure of various diseases. With Rhymes to gratify the mind. By William Henderson, late Inspector of the Fever Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, with a portrait prefixed. As a specimen of his abilities in the rhyming way, it is only necessary to give the *memorable* lines from the title-page of his book.

“ In the country and the town,
Here wisdom may be found ;
This book in a pupil's hand,
Will make him a wiser man ;
His voice may give the sound,
And say, 'tis worth a hundred pound” !!

For this *hundred pounds' worth of invaluable information*, he modestly charged 3s. 6d. It was “ Printed for the author by J. Marshall, Old Flesh Market, 1827.” It consists of 86 pages; the portrait, which is prefixed to this *morceau* of a book, is engraved by Mr. Isaac Nicholson, from a painting by Parker, and is an excellent likeness. This work *is a treat as it is*, but what would it have been, *if given in its original orthography*? After the Doctor's publication appeared, he received various letters signed “Robert Southey” and other fictitious names, lauding his *pre-eminent abilities*; all of which this very simple man believed to be genuine, and carried them about his person for exhibition; indeed there seemed nothing in the shape of praise too monstrous for him.

1828 (*Jan. 17*).—John George Lambton, esq., M. P., for the county of Durham, having been created a peer by the style and title of Baron Durham, of the city of Durham, and of Lambton castle, in the county of Durham, a new writ for an M. P. for the county was issued January 29th, when he was succeeded on the 13th of February in the same year, by William Russell, esq., of Brancepeth castle, Durham.

January 27.—Sunday evening lectures commenced in St. John's church, Newcastle, for which purpose it was first lighted with gas.

February 11.—Died, at Wallsend, Ann Usher, aged 102 years, who, during the last thirty years of her life, had received parochial relief to the amount of £157. 18s. from that place.

February 18.—A ball and supper were given by the bachelors of Durham and its neighbourhood, to the ladies and gentlemen in the same place and the county, which took place at the Assembly-rooms. The company began to assemble soon after nine o'clock, and before ten most of the visitors had arrived. The room at that period presented a perfect galaxy of beauty, rank, and fashion. The dresses of the ladies were remarkably splendid and tasteful, and the *coup d'œil* extremely brilliant. The dancing commenced at ten o'clock, and was kept up with great spirit until one o'clock, when the party were summoned to the most elegant supper ever served in Durham, upon any occasion. John Allan, esq., of Blackwell, presided, and he gave a peculiar zest to the entertainment by the felicitous manner in which he acquitted himself in the chair. He delivered a very entertaining speech in proposing the health of the

ladies who had honoured the bachelors with their company, and concluded, by expressing a hope, that their fascinations might have the happy effect of inducing some of his fraternity to change their state of life. The supper being concluded, and several appropriate toasts drunk, the party returned to the ball-room, when dancing was resumed and kept up with unabated spirit until a late hour on the morning. The following are the names of the gentlemen by whose subscriptions the expenses of the ball and supper were defrayed :—J. Allan (Blackwell), R. H. Allan, G. Appleby, T. Bowes, I. Bonomi, R. Burrell, Rev. T. Ebdon (Durham), J. Fawcett (Newton-Hall), Rev. C. Fawcett (Durham), Rev. S. Gamlen (Heighington), T. Griffith, J. Gregson, T. C. Granger, J. Hutchinson, A. W. Hutchinson (Durham), F. D. Johnson (Aykley-Heads), G. D. Lambton, J. D. Lambton (Durham), W. Mills (Willington), W. Russell, M. P. (Brancepeth castle), Rev. J. Raine (Durham), B. J. Salvin (Burnhall), G. Salvin (Croxdale), R. D. Shafto (Whitworth), R. Stafford, E. Shipperdson, H. Stapylton (Durham), W. Trotter (Bishop-Auckland), Lieut.-Gen. Wilkinson, G. Wilkinson (Durham), A. Wilkinson (Coxhoe Hall), W. E. Wooler, and T. Waldy (Durham).

1828 (*Feb.*).—This month a sepulchre of large dimensions, and of rude form and construction, was discovered at Millfield-hill, in Northumberland. It differed entirely from any of the tumuli which had before been opened in that neighbourhood. Some teeth and pieces of bone, evidently the remains of human bodies were found, and also several teeth, so large, that they must have belonged to an animal of no less size than a full-grown horse.

March 15.—An explosion took place in Jarrow colliery, by which unfortunate event eight men lost their lives. No exact account of the cause of the accident could be given, but the coroner and jury were satisfied that no blame could attach to any person, as the pit was considered in a good state and well ventilated.

March 23.—Died, at Alnwick, Mr. Alexander English, formerly of Rothbury, aged 107 years.

This month, an elegant window, in stained glass, by Mr. John Gibson, of Newcastle, was put up in Stockton church. The centre represents Christ bearing the cross, with other attributes, pourtrayed in a very superior manner. The placid countenance of the Redeemer is finely expressive of a heavenly meekness and resignation. The remainder of the window is filled with most beautiful and chaste ornamental work, and the whole so harmonises as to give it a most imposing and striking appearance. Mr. Gibson's colouring, in point of brilliancy, is allowed to surpass every thing of the kind hitherto exhibited.

April 1.—A meeting was held at Mitford, near Morpeth, and a subscription was entered into for the purpose of erecting a wooden bridge over the river Wansbeck, at the High Ford, where many lives had been lost in attempting to cross at that dangerous place. From the liberality of the neighbouring and other gentry, it was resolved that a bridge of stone should be erected.

About ten o'clock at night, a fire broke out in Mrs. Crowther's

premises at the Ouseburn, near Newcastle, the under part of which she occupied as an iron-foundry, and above was a steam corn-mill, in the occupation of Mr. Hetherington, and a small shop rented by another person. It was supposed the fire originated in some timber attached to the engine of the mill, and the whole of the building being of wood, such was the rapidity of the flames, all was a mass of burning ruins. The soap manufactory on the opposite side of the road was in imminent danger, but was saved by the playing of the engines and the exertions of those in attendance. Mr. Hetherington had in the mill about 200 bolls of wheat, and a large quantity of flour, which were totally destroyed; but his stock, as well as the whole of the premises and the goods were insured, with the exception of the stock of the poor man who rented the shop.

1828 (*April 6*).—On the evening of this day (Sunday), the ancient chapel at the west end of Durham cathedral, called the Galilee, was opened for the first time for evening lectures, and divine service was performed by the Rev. P. George, one of the minor canons, assisted by Mr. Stimpson, one of the choristers, as clerk. After which the Rev. W. N. Darnell, delivered an excellent lecture.

April 11.—A fire was discovered in a stable of Mr. R. Lamb, in Blue Anchor-chair on the Quayside, Newcastle. There were two horses in it; one of them was so much burnt, that it was considered necessary to kill it, the other died from the effects of the fire. The fire was soon got under.

April 21.—The branch from the Bank of England commenced business in a house at the south-west corner of Bailiff Gate, in Newcastle. The notes are the same as the parent institution, excepting that they are dated Newcastle.

April 22.—The foundation stone of a new Catholic chapel was laid in Hexham, by the Rev. Mr. Singleton, of that place. Although the time of the ceremony had not been previously announced, yet a great number of spectators were present.

April 23.—About six o'clock on the morning, a fire of a most terrific appearance broke out in the extensive paper manufactory of Mr. Smith, at Langley, near the city of Durham. When first discovered, the flames were ascending through the ventilators on the roof of the new part of the building, and very near to Mr. Smith's dwelling-house. The alarm was instantly given, and in a few minutes Mr. Smith's workmen and neighbours were on the spot. Intelligence having been speedily conveyed to Durham, the fire engines soon afterwards arrived at Langley, where also a great number of persons had assembled, who made the most praiseworthy exertions to subdue the destructive element. The room in which the fire broke out was used as a drying loft, and a great quantity of paper, in an unfinished state, was hanging upon lines within it. This burnt with amazing rapidity, and the timbers of the roof becoming ignited, very soon gave way under the weight of the slates, and the whole fell in with a tremendous crash. Masses of burning paper now rose into the air, and were scattered to a considerable distance. The fall of the roof, by checking the flames, gave an

opportunity to those who worked the engines to play upon the building with effect, and the opportunity was not lost. From the great efforts now made, the fire was entirely subdued before nine o'clock. The damage was estimated at about £1,000. The property was insured.

1828 (*April*).—Whilst the workmen were trenching the ground, for planting, at Villa Real, near Sandyford, Newcastle, they found a curious rude stone coffin, composed of six flag stones, containing the skeleton of a tall man, in complete preservation, with an urn standing by the side of his head. It appeared to be one of the most perfect specimens of the ancient British sepulchral vases that had been found. Mr. Blackbird, the occupier of the house, presented it to the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle. It was exhibited to the public in the library-room of the Literary and Philosophical Society.

Died, at Bath, aged 93 years, Sir John Trevelyan, bart., of Nettlecombe, Somersetshire, and of Wallington, Northumberland. Sir John was returned member for Newcastle, March 14th, 1777, after a severe contest with the celebrated profligate adventurer, Andrew Robinson Stoney Bowes. Sir John was a member in the three succeeding parliaments for Somersetshire.

This month, while some workmen were employed in draining a field near Seaham, Durham, the property of the Rev. O. J. Cresswell, rector of that place, they discovered in a very marshy part of it, and at a depth of about eight feet from the surface, an oaken coffin, containing human bones. The coffin fell to pieces on being exposed to the air.

May 2.—Died, at Bishop Auckland, John Clay, aged 100 years.

May 14.—Died, in Newcastle, in his 87th year, Archibald Henderson, better known by the appellation of "*Bold Archy*." He was of great stature and muscular power, and though his appearance to many was a *terrific object*, yet he was very inoffensive in his manners. *Bold Archy* is immortalized in several local songs written by Mr. Robert Gilchrist in the pure Newcastle dialect. He also forms one of the characters in the group of "*Newcastle Eccentrics*," painted by Mr. Parker, and engraved by Mr. Armstrong. In this group (14), all living in 1819, there are now (1832), only two in existence;—viz.: *Blind Willie*, and *Whin Bobby*.

May 29.—The ancient custom of singing on the steeple of the cathedral at Durham, on the anniversary of the above day, was revived at the church. At the close of divine service, the choristers ascended the steeple, and sung the three anthems formerly used on that elevated station. *See vol. i. page 46.*

June 5.—The "United Kingdom" steam packet, of 1,000 tons, came into the river Tyne for a supply of coals. This vessel, which was the largest of the kind belonging to Great Britain, was on its passage from London to Leith.

June 11.—The farm-house at Snipe House, near Alnwick, occupied by Mr. John Marshall, was destroyed by fire, supposed to have been occasioned by a foul chimney.

1828 (*June 11*).—The Northern Academy of Arts, which was commenced building in Blakett-street, Newcastle, September 15th, 1827, was first opened to the public, with a very superior display of paintings by London, native, and other artists. There were also exhibited very splendid and costly models of St Paul's, London, and St. Peter's, at Rome, the property of Lady Ravensworth, who, for the gratification of the public, sent them from the museum at Ravensworth castle. This exhibition closed on the 13th of September. This building was again opened, October 6th, for the "Exhibition of pictures by the most celebrated, ancient, and deceased masters, selected from the best collections." The building, both exterior and interior, does great credit to the projectors. The first exhibition of drawings in water colours took place in this institution on the 31st October, 1831. This was another display of superior talent.

1828 (*June 11*).—The ceremony of laying the foundation stone (at the entrance door) of the Rectory-house, for the parish of St. John's, Gateshead Fell, was performed by the workmen. Refreshments were distributed to the persons present, and each was presented with a card containing the following inscription:—"The foundation stone of the building intended for the Rectory-house for the parish of St. John's, Gateshead, Fell, was laid this 11th of June, 1828, on which day the site was named, and will ever afterwards be called Hawksbury Hill."

June 22.—Died, at Pelton, near Chester-le-street, Isabella Eddy, widow, in her 107th year.



June 25.—The common council of Newcastle, established a new corporate company, entitled "The Company or Fraternity of Scriveners of Newcastle upon Tyne," of which Nathaniel Clayton, Christopher Fenwick, Percival Fenwick, Armorer Donkin, John Adamson, Peregrine George Ellison, John Brown, John Clayton Henry Ingledew, Robert Anthony Purvis, George William Cram

Thomas William Keenlyside, Thomas Dove, Matthew Clayton, Richard Hill Gee, Edward Hemsley and Ions Hewison (attorneys), free burgesses, were declared members, and they were consequently enabled to bestow the freedom of the town upon their apprentices. The preceding wood-cut shews the arms of this new corporate company, to whom I am indebted for the loan of it.

1828 (*June 27*).—Died, in the Mill-entry, Head of the Side, Newcastle, aged 103 years, Thomas Thompson, an old soldier, a native of Woodhorn, in Northumberland. He was at the battle of Minden in 1759, where he had his skull fractured, and he wore a silver plate over the fracture to the day of his death. At the close of the war in the year 1763, he travelled over Europe, and part of Asia and Africa in the service of Captain Younghusband. He afterwards supported himself by turning a wheel for a glass-cutter in the Close, Newcastle, as long as there was employment in that line. On the visit of the Duke of Wellington to Newcastle, a petition was presented to his grace on his behalf, stating his great age and services, and that his means of support had been materially affected by the loss of his two sons, one at the battle of Trafalgar, and the other under his grace at Waterloo. The effect of this petition was to obtain for him an enlargement of his pension to 1s. 8d. per day. But it had a still more beneficial effect in raising up for him a friend and protector in the person of Colonel Arnold, who having been employed to announce to the veteran the above piece of good fortune, took so kind an interest for him, as very materially added to his comfort during the remainder of his life.

June 30.—A new theatre was opened at Sunderland, when the justly celebrated songstress, Miss Hughes, from London, a native of that town, made her first appearance there. She was received with the most rapturous applause, and was *encored* in all her songs. The house was crowded to excess.

This month a sparrow built its nest upon the quarter block of the main yard of the ship Friends of North Shields, Captain Meldrum, whilst lying in the river Tyne, and therein deposited several eggs.

July 13 and 14.—A heavy rain having fallen, the rivers in the northern counties were swollen to such a degree, as caused much loss and damage to the lands and crops on the low grounds and banks of the rivers. The Tyne rose to a great height, laying corn-fields waste, pikes of hay were floated down, also live stock, consisting of sheep and pigs, also numerous geese and ducks, were hurried away by the impetuosity of the current, and lost to their owners. Several trees were torn up by the roots, and floated down the stream. The gable end of Mr. Harrison's paper-mill, erecting at the west end of Pipewellgate, Gateshead, was thrown down by the water running into the building, and bursting away the foundation. The houses in Dunstan and its vicinity were completely surrounded by the water, and the inhabitants had no means of escaping but by boats. Several vessels, keels, and small craft, were driven from their moorings. Great damage was done on the grounds contiguous

to the rivers Tees, Wear, Team, Derwent and the Coquet. At Sunderland, a ship was driven from Hetton staith to the low part of the harbour, and some keels were driven from their moorings out to sea. At an early hour on the Monday morning (14th), a fine large black horse was taken out of the river dead, at the glass-house quay of Addison Fenwick, esq. It had the shafts and harness of a gig attached to it, but the body of the carriage was not found. Same day, a valuable cart mare belonging to Mr. Thomas Wailes, of Meldon, was carried down the river Wansbeck, and drowned. By some means she had backed the cart into the swollen torrent, and was hurried away by the stream. The damage to the paper-mill at Shotley, upon the river Derwent, was very great. The whole of the dam head and apron, together with great part of a new quay, for the erection of another mill, were swept away. Most of the wooden bridges upon this river were carried away. A *water-spout* fell at the foot of the bank near Hamsterley lodge, and did great damage to the road. The low lands adjacent to the river Wear, were for a long time under water, so that fine crops of every description were completely destroyed. A vast quantity of hay in pikes passed down the river. On Sunday (13th), as Mr. Cook, blacksmith at Nesham colliery, his brother-in-law, and their wives, were proceeding home from Newcastle, in a cart, the river having overflowed, had extended into the lane near the new bridge, at Lambton Park. In attempting to turn back, the horse, being nearly overhead in water, stumbled, and was immediately drowned. After Mr. Cook and his friends had called out a long time, some persons walking to see the river, went to their assistance, and ropes were procured. Several persons attempted to swim to them with ropes, but were unable to come near them, the water being several feet deep in the lane, and coming very rapidly down the new bridge field. Mr. Storey, of Pick-tree, sent a horse and sledge to Lambton, to bring a boat to the new bridge, when John Ferguson, boatman, (a sailor), John Briggs, gamekeeper, at Lambton, and Joseph Laverick, formerly of Lumley ferry-boat, proceeded in the Lambton boat, to rescue them from their perilous situation, having ropes made fast to the boat. The ropes were thrown to the people to make fast to the trees, whither they had swum, to render all the assistance in their power to the unfortunate persons, as the water had risen, and they were standing in the cart up to their shoulders. After three of them were removed from the cart, it was carried away by the stream, and the other man jumped into the water and caught hold of a rope that was thrown from the boat. As they were dragging him to the boat the rope broke that was tied to the tree, and the boat was taken by the strong current over the tops of the trees, and every person thought it would upset, but Ferguson by his skill brought the boat ashore in the plantation belonging to Lord Durham, near Mickleton, to the surprise of a great number who had assembled. They had been in their perilous situation about four hours. A great number of leverets were observed clinging to the pikes of hay as they floated down the Wear. Incalculable damage was

done by this visitation, but it was not ascertained that any human lives were lost.

1828 (*July 21*).—Died at St. Omer, in France, George Allan, of Blackwell Grange, esq., M. A., F. S. A., and sometime M. P. for the city of Durham. A gentleman of great erudition and classical attainments, and of the most bland and conciliatory manners and demeanour. He was a candidate for the city of Durham, in the year 1813, on the resignation of Ralph John Lambton, esq., and after a severe, lengthened, and expensive struggle, he was returned by a considerable majority. During the period that he sat in parliament, his votes were consistent, and marked with a strict sense of independence. Indeed, on one or two occasions, he differed from a large portion of his constituents, but he was always ready to explain his motives, and he would rather refrain from voting at all than give a vote contrary to his conscience. On the dissolution of parliament in the year 1818, he was again a candidate, and it was confidently asserted, that if he had persevered in his intentions, he would have been again returned, but the heavy pecuniary sacrifices of the first election, did not warrant his perseverance in a second contest, and he manfully declared his “inability to command such pecuniary resources as would be necessary to secure his election.” When this determination was communicated to the freemen, it was received with sentiments of universal regret, highly honourable to all parties. Mr. Allan died in the 61st year of his age, leaving no issue, and the family estates have in consequence partly devolved on William Allan, esq., eldest son of the late Robert Allan, esq., of Newbottle. August 13th, his remains having been removed from St. Omer to his native county for interment, were deposited in the family vault in Darlington church. The funeral was attended by John Allan, esq., William Allan, esq., Robert Henry Allan, esq. F. S. A., Captain James Allan Wright, and Captain John Allan Wright, the nearest relatives of the lamented deceased, and by a large concourse of the inhabitants of Darlington and its neighbourhood.

July 27.—Died, at Warkworth, in Northumberland, aged 100 years, Mrs, Ann Taylor, widow of Mr. Cuthbert Taylor, of Tanfield, Durham.

July.—In removing the old battlements of Framwellgate-bridge, in the city of Durham, a large living toad was found in the very middle of the wall where it must have been confined for a number of years. The bridge was built by bishop Flambard in the year 1120, but when the battlement containing the animal was built, was not known.

This month, died, in London, suddenly, Mr. Thomas Fryer Ranson, an engraver of considerable eminence. Mr. Ranson was born at Sunderland, in the year 1784, but his parents shortly after removed to Newcastle, where he was bound apprentice to Mr. J. A. Kidd, engraver. After completing his apprenticeship he remained in Newcastle a few years, during which he executed several pieces with great taste and delicacy. He then removed to London, and soon became distinguished, and in the year 1814 received from the Society of Arts a silver medal, for the engraving of a portrait,

supposed to be that of Sir Thomas Gresham. On the 15th of April, 1818, he sent to the Society of Arts the copy of a new bank note, exhibiting specimens of the highest excellence in the graphic art. The vignette in the centre, etched and engraved by himself, from a drawing by Thurston, is a most beautiful production of art. Messrs. Archer and Turrell also contributed their skill, and the writing is well executed by Mr. Lambert, of Newcastle, engraver. This plate, and Mr. Ranson's letters were afterwards published by the Society of Arts. In June, this year, Mr. Ranson published "*An interior view of Coldbath-fields prison, in which Thomas Ranson was unlawfully confined by the Bank of England, for holding an alleged forged One Pound Note (that he paid forty shillings for), which was proved to be genuine in a Court of Justice. Dedicated, without permission, to the Govr. and Company of the Threadneedle-street paper establishment.*" He contended that the Bank had no right to impound notes the property of others, and that the inspectors could not always distinguish between a forged and a genuine note. The question was decided in his favour, and he received much merited praise for this noble stand against an illegal assumption of power by the Bank. In the year 1821, he received, from the Society of Arts, the gold Isis medal, for his portrait of the late duke of Northumberland, an engraving in the line manner, which has seldom been equalled; and, in May, the following year, he again received the gold Isis medal from the same society, for an engraving of Wilkie's "Duncan Gray." He afterwards produced some small engravings (proofs of which I had the honour to receive from Mr. Ranson), which that great master, Wilkie, declared to be "decided improvements upon any of his former works." Mr. Ranson, like many other geniuses, had his failings, but these always "leaned to virtue's side."

1828 (*Aug*).—Workmen were at this time employed in building a bridge at the Link-house, near Blyth, the expense of which to be defrayed by private subscriptions.

August 14.—About five o'clock on the morning an alarming fire was discovered in the premises of Mr. Musgrave, mustard manufacturer in Stockton, which burnt for a considerable time with great fury. The roofs of the building soon fell in, but from the great exertions made, and a good supply of water, it was fortunately got under about eight o'clock.

August 23.—In conformity to a new act for regulating the town of North Shields, watchmen were appointed, and put on duty for the first time, on the night of the above day, Saturday.

September 1.—An explosion took place in the new pit at Houghton-le-Spring, belonging to Lord Durham, when three men and four boys were burnt to death. The accident was attributed to the sufferers themselves having incautiously left open a door in the mine on the Saturday. The foul air had by this means accumulated in the workings, and on the return of the pitmen on the Monday morning with their lights, it immediately exploded and occasioned the fatal result.

1828 (*Sept. 7*).—The new chapel built at Brandling Place, near Newcastle, was opened for the use of the Wesleyan Methodists, on which occasion sermons were preached by the Rev. Francis A. West, and the Rev. William Naylor, to crowded audiences.

September 9.—This being the day on which Matthew White Ridley, esq., eldest son of Sir M. W. Ridley, bart. M. P. for Newcastle, attained his 21st year, all the bells in the churches of that town rung several merry peals on the occasion. The day was celebrated with much festivity and rejoicing at Blagdon, and other places in the vicinity of the honourable baronet's domain. At Blyth all business was suspended, and the gentlemen of the place and its neighbourhood, with the masters of the ships in the harbour dined together in celebration of the event. All the workmen at Cowpen colliery and Blyth employed under Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., were liberally regaled, and the sailors belonging to the ships in the harbour were not forgotten. Such a festive day had not taken place at Blyth since April 18th, 1799, when the worthy baronet attained his 21st year.

September 9.—The new church of St. Paul, at Winlaton, in the parish of Ryton, Durham, was opened. The lord bishop of Durham arrived at Axwell Park the preceding day, where he remained during the night, and, at eleven o'clock the next morning his lordship arrived at the school-house, Winlaton, and was joined there by Sir Thomas Clavering, bart., C. J. Clavering, esq., and the principal inhabitants of the parish, all of whom carried white wands. The company went in procession, preceded by the Winlaton band of music, to the church (though the morning had been very wet and stormy), which was filled with a very respectable congregation. On the bishop arriving at the church, he was met at the west door by the Rev. Charles Thorp, rector of Ryton; the Rev. John Dodd, vicar of Newcastle; the Rev. John Collinson, rector of Gateshead; the Rev. Mr. Collinson, of Lamesley, and several other clergymen. The usual petition was presented to the bishop praying that he would consecrate the church, and, after being read by the registrar, the procession moved to the vestry, where the bishop enrobed himself. The "morning hymn" was sung by a choir, accompanied by the band; after which the ceremony commenced with the procession moving up the middle aisle from the west door to the communion table, the bishop and the clergy repeating alternately verses from the 24th Psalm. His lordship and his two chaplains then stepped within the rails of the altar, when the usual prayers were read. The procession then proceeded to the church-yard, where the act of consecrating the burial-ground was read by the Rev. Mr. Baker, the chancellor, and signed by his lordship, who offered up a suitable prayer, and again returned to the altar; the chancellor then read the sentence for the consecration of the church, and it being signed by his lordship, was laid upon the communion table. The service of the day was then delivered by the Reverends Henry Wardell and John Reed (the latter being appointed curate), and an excellent and pathetic sermon was preached by his lordship, from

Psalm 26th, verse 8th—"Lord I have loved the habitation and the place where thine honour dwelleth." The choir then sung with great effect "Lord dismiss us," &c. His lordship then read a suitable prayer, and concluded with the apostolic blessing. After the ceremony, his lordship, the clergy, &c., partook of a cold collation at the house of Mr. Belt, after which his lordship, the clergy, &c., drove off to the rectory-house at Ryton, and honoured the Rev. Mr. Thorp, with his presence to dinner. Mr. Belt presented to the church a peal of five bells, which were rung at intervals during the day. The tenor bell which weighs 10 cwt. bears the following inscription on the front:—"This peal of five bells was presented to the church of St. Paul, by Robert Belt, esq., Winlaton, Anno Dom. 1828." and on the reverse—"Charles Thorp, B. D., rector of Ryton; Henry Wardell, M. A., John Reed, B. A., curates; Robert Watson; Newcastle Tyne, founder."

1828 (*Sept. 9*).—A part of the east wing of the ancient cathedral of Hexham, now used as the parish church, fell with a tremendous crash, and broke through the roof of a building adjoining, called the old school, in which were deposited the town lamps, all of which were demolished.

September 11.—The new chapel and cemetery at Greenhead, in the parish of Haltwhistle, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham. The building which is in a plain simple style of Gothic architecture, was from a plan by Mr. Dobson, of Newcastle, and was built by subscription. The Rev. N. J. Hollingsworth, the vicar of Haltwhistle, officiated in the service of the day, after which an appropriate sermon was delivered by the bishop from Matthew, chap. 13, verses 16 and 17.

September 15.—Died, at Hedley, near Beamish, in the county of Durham, Mr. Matthew Pratt, formerly a farmer at Urpeth, who had completed his 100th year on the 9th of the preceding June.

September 18.—In the evening, as a gentleman was driving his carriage down the hill near Wallbottle, on his way from Newcastle to Hexham, the vehicle ran amain, and was precipitated over the bridge at the foot of the bank. The height from the bridge to the dean below is nearly thirty feet, and, wonderful as it may seem, the horse was only slightly hurt, and the driver merely stunned. The carriage, which was considerably damaged, was new, and had just come from London, by the steam-packet, to Newcastle.

October 16.—A most splendid entertainment was given by the hon. H. T. Liddell, M. P., and Mrs. Liddell, at their seat at Eslington-house, Northumberland, to celebrate the baptism of their youngest daughter. At half-past five o'clock P. M., the ceremony was performed by the Rev. H. G. Liddell, in the presence of a select party of relatives and friends. Her grace the duchess of Northumberland, Miss Seymour, and the hon. Mrs. Dawson, were the sponsors. A beautiful china font was presented for the occasion by her grace, and the lovely infant was named Florentia, from her grace's second name. After the ceremony, the distinguished party sat

down to a sumptuous dinner at 6 o'clock. At half-past nine o'clock, the ball company began to arrive, and the elegant ball room was thrown open to the admiring assemblage. The ball was opened by the hon. Mr. Liddell, and her grace the Duchess of Northumberland, and the dancing was kept up with great spirit till one o'clock, when the company retired to a splendid and elegant supper. The health of the lord lieutenant of the county, and of her grace, was proposed in a neat and appropriate manner, by the hon. Mr. Liddell, and was drunk with long and loud applause, after which the healths of the honourable host and hostess were proposed in a most gratifying manner by his grace, and loud cheers accompanied this toast. The healths of the distinguished sponsors were then proposed by Mr. Liddell, and received with great applause. The healths of lord and lady Ravensworth and family, were given and drunk with great enthusiasm. The company then returned to the ball-room, and a varied succession of waltzes, quadrilles, and other dances, were continued until the dawn of the morning warned the happy party of the necessity of quitting the scene of festivity. The ball-room was most tastefully decorated with wreaths of flowers and evergreens, beautifully arranged in various devices; and the name bestowed by her grace the duchess of Northumberland upon the *young christian*, was distinctly seen at the head of the room in large gold letters, intermixed with moss and flowers; and on the side of the room were seen the initials of the duke and duchess, with their respective coronets, most skilfully executed by Mr. Athey, of Alnwick. There were about 150 persons present upon this occasion, comprising several of the most distinguished families in the county.

1828 (*Oct. 24*).—His royal highness the duke of Sussex, passed through Newcastle, on a visit to Earl Grey, at Howick, and returned to the south on the 27th. His royal highness had for some time previous been at Raby Castle, the hospitable mansion of the marquis of Cleveland; where Lord Durham, Mr. Brougham, and a distinguished party had been invited to meet his royal highness. October 14th, his royal highness made a short tour through the country; passing over Winston bridge, he proceeded by Thorpe to Greta bridge, where he partook of refreshment at Martin's new inn; from thence crossing the Abbey bridge, they returned to Raby castle through Barnardcastle. His royal highness was highly gratified with his excursion through that beautiful neighbourhood. He was invited to Brancepeth castle, the seat of William Russell, esq., M. P., but this he declined on account of the death of his sister the queen of Wirtemberg.

October.—This month, in making an excavation for a new harbour at Seaham in the county of Durham, a human skeleton was found about three feet below the surface of the earth, with the head doubled forward upon the breast. It was supposed to be the body of some person who had been murdered at a remote period; most of the small bones were decomposed.



1828 (*Nov. 8*).—Died, at his house in Gateshead, in the 76th year of his age, Mr. Thomas Bewick, the celebrated engraver on wood. He was born in the year 1753 at Cherryburn, near Ovingham, in Northumberland. From an early proficiency in drawing, he, at the age of fourteen years, was bound apprentice to Mr. Ralph Beilby, an engraver in Newcastle, who was a man of considerable talent. Mr. Bewick was first brought before the public by his wood cut of “*The Old Hound*,” which gained the premium of seven guineas from the Society of Arts in the year 1775. This no doubt encouraged his genius, and laid the foundation of his success in after life. He cut in wood the mathematical diagrams for Hutton’s *Mensuration*, in quarto, published in Newcastle in the year 1770. Soon after the expiration of his servitude, he was taken into partnership by his master, under the firm of Beilby and Bewick, and in the year 1790 appeared his “*History of Quadrupeds*.” In the year 1795, he, with his brother John, were engaged by Mr. Wm. Bulmer, printer, of London, (a native of Newcastle) to embellish an edition of Goldsmith’s *Traveller and Deserted Village*, and Parnell’s *Hermit*. The success that attended this volume, induced Mr. Bulmer to engage in the publication of *Somerville’s Chase* as a companion. This was produced the year following. After Mr. John Bewick had finished on wood the whole of the designs, except one which embellish this work, he left London for Ovingham, where he died on the 5th of December, 1795, aged 35 years, and lies buried at Ovingham church. After the death of his brother, Mr.

Bewick bestowed every possible attention in engraving these blocks. In the year 1797 he published the first volume of *British Birds*; in 1804 the second volume; and in 1818 appeared the last of his published works, "*The Fables of Æsop and others.*" At the time of his death he had cut in wood several illustrations for a *History of Fishes*. Many of his tailpieces have particular allusions:—once a fellow cheated him of a cart of coals, and to punish and expose the fellow, Mr. Bewick sketched his likeness, and made the Devil drive him pictorially to the gallows in his own cart; this cut is in vol. i. page 114, of his *British Birds*—and the tailpiece on the last page of his *Fables* represents his own funeral, with a view of Ovingham church; below the cut appears the descriptive word "*FINIS.*" He was buried at Ovingham church on the 13th of November, and was attended to the grave by many of his old and valued friends. Mr. Bewick possessed a rare union of talent, being a naturalist, a draughtsman, and an engraver. To enumerate the whole of the works embellished by Messrs. Thomas and John Bewick would far exceed my limits, but I shall here enumerate a portion done by the former. On copper,—Illustrations to Consetts's *Tour in Lapland*, *The Whitley large Ox*, and another prize *Ox*. His large wood cuts are,—"*The Wild Bull of the ancient Caledonian breed, now in the park at Chillingham castle, Northumberland, 1789.*" This is his largest wood cut. A *Zebra*, an *Elephant*, a *Tyger*, and a *Lion*; these were designed and cut in wood for Mr. Pidcock, while he was in Newcastle with his celebrated collection of wild beasts in 1799. He also designed and cut in wood, a lion for Mr. Charnley of Newcastle. This gentleman has also gratified the *Bewick collectors*, by gathering a vast number of Bewick's blocks which had *strayed* from Newcastle, and publishing them in 1820 in a very neatly printed volume, under the title of "*Select Fables.*" This contains an original portrait, cut in wood by Charlton Nesbit, also reduced copies of all the portraits of Mr. Bewick which have been engraved. They are four in number; the one here given is from a painting by Nicholson, and engraved by the late Thomas Fryer Ranson, in the year 1816. This was spoken very highly of in the journals of that day. There is a very fine marble bust, by Bailey, of Mr. Bewick in the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle; it was placed there by a subscription of his friends and admirers.

1828 (*Nov. 9*).—A fire occurred in All Saints church, Newcastle. When the congregation assembled at 3 o'clock for divine service, there was a great deal of smoke in the church, and it increased so much during the sermon, that many of the congregation were obliged to go out, and therefore the minister (the Rev. W. A. Shute), who was preaching thought it best to conclude abruptly. The church being warmed by a stove, it was found that the upright flue or chimney had been filled with soot, and this having ignited, had heated the iron flue red hot, and as this passed near one of the main timbers of the roof, and separated from it only by lime, the beam had caught fire, and the flames had communicated to some of the rafters which it supported. Fire engines being immediately sent for, the

devouring element was apparently overcome about a quarter past six o'clock ; it however partially broke out again about half-past ten, but as one engine and the firemen were still upon the spot, it was immediately discovered and finally extinguished about eleven o'clock at night. It was supposed that in half an hour more the conflagration would have become general and reduced this elegant structure to a heap of ruins. So great was the anxiety for the preservation of the church, that the corpse of Mr. Lax, which was in waiting at four o'clock, could not be interred until between six and seven o'clock. The damage amounted to about £260.

1828 (*Nov. 10*).—Two most shocking murders were committed at Cowley House, near Sedgefield, in the county of Durham, by a man named Joseph Hutchinson, on the bodies of his father and brother named John and Israel Hutchinson, who were joint occupiers of the farm. The family, consisting of the father, two sons, a daughter, and her husband, were all sitting at dinner between twelve and one o'clock, and before the others had finished their meals, Joseph Hutchinson rose and left the table (his usual practice) without any provocation, and retired into a back kitchen, from which, however, he soon returned with a large poker, and with it inflicted a tremendous blow on the head of his brother, which brought him to the ground nearly lifeless. He then aimed a blow at his brother-in-law (Lamb), which grazed his forehead, but he was fortunately able to effect his escape with his wife and children, without further injury. After this Joseph attacked his father in a furious manner with the same weapon, and continued to do so until life was nearly extinct, when he left the house for a hammer, with which he returned with the servant girl, (who had been in the yard during the murders) whom he desired to go into the house and get her dinner, apparently regardless of the horrid slaughter he had committed. On re-entering the kitchen, the murderer again commenced beating the heads of his victims with the hammer ; he then saddled a fine spirited horse and rode to Durham, as deliberately as if nothing had happened. He went to Mr. Forsyth's, the Newcastle Arms, in New Elvet, the house which the family usually went to in Durham, between one and two o'clock in the afternoon, but left soon after on his return home. By this time a constable of Sedgefield, named Crossling, having been despatched in pursuit of him, succeeded (with the assistance of two gentlemen in a gig whom he accidentally met), in securing the murderer near Coxhoe. He was committed to Durham gaol on the coroner's verdict of *wilful murder*. Two indictments were preferred at the Durham Spring assizes, 23d February, 1829, against Joseph Hutchinson, for the murder of his father and brother, John and Israel Hutchinson, at Sedgefield, but the grand jury returned them with the following words written at the bottom :—" We find that Joseph Hutchinson did cause the death of John and Israel Hutchinson, by the means named in the indictment ; but we do not find that bill for murder, as it appears to us that the prisoner was insane at the time of committing the act." The prisoner was brought up and arraigned on

the coronor's warrant for the above named murders, and when asked whether he was guilty or not guilty, he replied "I did it, but were they Christians or not?" He seemed perfectly collected, and manifested the greatest indifference to what was passing. Mr. Justice Bailey at first thought that it would be best for the court to put in a plea of "not guilty" for him, as he did not answer satisfactorily. The clerk of the court was proceeding to swear the jury, and on the prisoner being told that he might object to any of the jurymen if he thought proper, he said—"I'll tell them what I'll do, I'll bring a speech box for them." This evident insanity of the prisoner altered his lordship's mind, and he said he thought it would be much better to swear the jury for the purpose of enquiring whether the prisoner was insane or not, and in a fit state of mind to take his trial. The jury were accordingly sworn, and examined Mr. Frushard, the governor of the gaol, his assistant Milbank, and Mr. Hepple, surgeon to the gaol, and Mr. Oswald, surgeon, Sedgefield, all of whom stated their decided conviction that he was in an unsound state of mind; and the latter gentleman said that he was sent for to attend him more than two years ago, and at that time recommended his family to send him to a lunatic assylum, as he was not fit to go at large. The jury immediately expressed their opinion that he was of unsound mind, and unfit to take his trial. He was then taken back to the prison, and ordered to be detained.

1828 (*Nov.* 10).—Two boys, named Donnison and Lamb, the one eleven, the other twelve years of age, were unfortunately killed in a quarry, situated in Diana's Grove, on the north Elswick estate, near Newcastle, where they had been sent by their employer, Thomas Colvin, of Gallowgate, tharm maker, to dig coals. In the quarry there was a passage to an old coal pit, where they dug out the coals which supported the roof, when a huge rock, about fifteen tons weight fell upon them and crushed them to death. The rock had to be broke in pieces before the bodies could be recovered. The boys were son and grandson of a man named Donnison, a tailor, who perished in a storm a few years before, at the Cowgate, near Newcastle, in returning from Woolsington.

November 11.—The dead bodies of two females were discovered in the coach-office of the Turf hotel in Newcastle. One came by the Highflyer coach from York, and the other was brought by a man to be booked for Edinburgh. In consequence of suspicions a police officer was sent for, and the man was taken into custody. The packages were directed to different parties in Edinburgh. Inquests were held on the following day by the coroner for Newcastle, and no marks of violence appearing on the bodies, the verdict was to that effect, and they were interred in St. John's church-yard. The package from York came to Newcastle first on the 8th, and being suspected, was returned thither; and the coach proprietors at York sent it back by the same coach. The man who took the other box to the coach-office was tried and *acquitted*.

November 13.—Between three and four o'clock on the morning a fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mr. W. Scott, as a

joiner's shop, situated above the brew-house belonging to the Bee Hive public-house, in the Close, Newcastle. It was supposed to have originated from some sparks of fire which had been left burning during the night, coming in contact with the joiner's shavings. The flames were observed issuing from the roof by some keelmen on the river who gave the alarm. Fire engines being shortly in attendance, with other assistance, the destructive element was confined to the house wherein it broke out, and in a short time was wholly suppressed. The roof fell in, and other considerable damage was done to the amount of about £150. The premises were the property of Jabez Hood, esq.

1828 (*Nov.* 13).—The bell tower of the new Catholic chapel, then building at Hexham, fell with a tremendous crash, which did considerable damage. Fortunately no lives were lost, as it occurred during the workmen's dinner hour. No blame was attached to the builder, Mr. William Oliver, of Durham, as the part that fell was under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Singleton, a difference having taken place between Mr. Oliver and the committee.

November 20.—A dreadful explosion took place in the I Pit, at Washington colliery upon the river Wear. There were fifteen persons (eleven boys and four men) in the pit when it occurred, all of whom were killed, excepting a man named Michael Hall, who was much burnt. The report was awfully loud, and the blast so powerful, that the machinery at the mouth of the pit was blown down and scattered about to some distance, with corves and other weighty bodies from the bottom of the shaft. The colliery had been examined in the morning, and was considered to be in a state of perfect ventilation.

November 28.—This being the day appointed for laying the foundation stones of the new harbour and town of Seaham, in the county of Durham, an immense concourse of people had assembled to witness the imposing ceremony. The marquis and marchioness of Londonderry, accompanied by Lord Ravensworth and family, and other distinguished friends, arrived in their carriages, a little before one o'clock. They then alighted within a short distance of the harbour, and on the line of road which led to it. Here "*The Wellington Car*," (that in which the illustrious Wellington passed along the colliery waggon-ways, when he visited the county of Durham, the preceding year,) was ready to receive them, and into which the distinguished party immediately entered, and were conducted down the railway towards the site of the new harbour, preceded by the marquis's band of music. On reaching the spot where the ceremony was to take place, the marquis of Londonderry, Sir C. Sharp and John Buddle, esq., alighted, cheered by the loudest acclamations; this was a most interesting moment, as Seaham-hall, the church, and many of the neighbouring farm-houses, a wind-mill, and the temporary erections near the harbour, were decorated with flags. Mr. Buddle having mounted the stone, he presented his lordship with a splendid silver trowel, on one side of which a plan of the new harbour was engraved, and on the other the Londonderry

arms and the following inscription ;—“ This trowel was presented to the most honourable Charles William Vane Stewart, Marquis of Londonderry, by John Buddle, on laying the foundation stone of the north pier of Seaham harbour, this 28th day of Nov., 1828” The handle was formed of Rainton coal highly polished. Mr. Buddle in presenting this trowel, complimented his lordship as having spent great part of his life as a soldier, and on his now shewing a desire to preserve the lives of British seamen, as he regarded this new harbour as an undertaking commenced, less to serve his own interest, than from the patriotic motive of affording a place of refuge for shipping on that coast, where a few years ago such disastrous wrecks had taken place, and which he was well assured would have been prevented had the vessels had such a port of safety to have recourse to, as was now about to be constructed. Sir Cuthbert Sharp also spoke on the occasion, and expressed himself of opinion, that this great undertaking, so far from being injurious to the town of Sunderland, as had been conjectured, would be beneficial to it. In a speech of considerable length, Sir Cuthbert was repeatedly and loudly cheered, and having passed a high eulogium upon the noble marquis and his lady, he presented to the latter a flag having the armorial bearings of the noble family, encircled with the motto of “ *Success to Seaham Harbour.*” The marquis of Londonderry then laid the foundation stone of the north-east pier of the inner harbour. His lordship observed, that he was delighted to see so many friends around him on this occasion; he had commenced, he said, the great undertaking, in honour of which they were now assembled, less for his own advantage than for serving the public, and for advancing the commercial interests of the county of Durham. He had begun it by the advice of his valued friend Mr. Buddle, and when he considered that he not only had the opinion of Mr. Chapman, the engineer, but also of Mr. Telford, and of Mr. Rennie in his favour, he could not help confidently looking forward to a successful termination. The cheering which followed his lordship’s speech, which had been delivered with much feeling, lasted for some time, and a salute of 34 guns was fired from the neighbouring cliff to signify the conclusion of the first ceremony. As the car was drawn from the beach, the noble family was again loudly cheered. On reaching the summit of the bank, Mr. Chapman, the engineer, presented himself, and handing to the noble marquis a plan of the harbour, took occasion to deliver a few observations on the forwardness of the work which had been so recently commenced, and on the future extent of its utility. Mr. Chapman’s speech was loudly cheered. The marquis and marchioness, and their friends having alighted from the car, walked round the limits of the harbour to inspect the progress of the works, and then re-entering their barouche, drawn by four beautiful horses, they proceeded to the spot where the foundation stone of the first house of Seaham town was to be laid by Viscount Seaham. The marquis and his interesting little boy, here descended from the carriage, and were received by John Dobson, esq., of

Newcastle, architect, who in presenting a plan of the intended town to Lord Seaham, who was to lay the foundation stone, observed, that in preparing the design, he had calculated on that place becoming a port of considerable eminence, and he trusted that his gallant father and accomplished mother would have cause to look back with pride on the proceedings of that day. Mr. Dobson then presented the young lord with a very handsome silver trowel, the handle formed of limestone of a very fine description, with which the Seaham estate abounds. Lord Seaham, who had not attained his eighth year, replied to Mr. Dobson, as follows:—"Mr. Dobson, I thank you. I cannot make a speech, but I wish success to the town, and happiness to the people." His lordship having completed the ceremony, the cheers of the assembled multitude, were followed by another salute of 34 guns from the cliff, and the crowd then moved gradually to the northward, notice having been given that all persons were required to retire beyond a certain barrier, prior to the firing of the mine, which was to blow into the air a large mass of rock to commemorate the occurrences of the day. Sufficient time was given for this purpose, and a signal gun was fired two minutes before the springing of the mine, that all persons might be upon their guard and look to their own safety. The explosion at length took place, and the rock was shivered to pieces in a moment, and parts of it were hurled into the air and scattered for some distance round. Three persons who had not attended to the caution were injured by the fall of the fragments, one man having a shoulder dislocated, another his arm broken, and a boy received a severe contusion. The marquis and marchioness of Londonderry and their friends, after witnessing the explosion, retired to Seaham Hall, where a sumptuous banquet was provided for a very large assemblage of the most respectable gentry in the county of Durham, and of the adjoining counties. The health of the marchioness of Londonderry preceded all others, and was drunk with repeated cheers. "The marquis of Londonderry," "Lord Seaham, and the junior branches of the family," and "Success to Seaham harbour," followed, and were received with the most enthusiastic applause. The company, consisting of nearly 400 persons, were not less gratified by the elegant profusion of the board, than with the courtesy, kindness, and condescension of the noble host and hostess. The proceedings of this day will be long recollected with pleasure and satisfaction, as well by those who partook of the splendid hospitality of Seaham Hall, as by those who were spectators of the noble and important proceedings of laying the foundation stones of a new harbour and town. The number of persons present, at the most moderate calculation, may be stated at 7,000. The brass plate, hermetically sealed in a glass case, deposited beneath the pier, bore the following inscription:—

" Charles William Vane,
Third Marquis of Londonderry,
Viscount Castlereagh and Baron Stewart,
Of Mount Stewart, and of Ballilawn in Ireland,

And
 First Earl Vane and Viscount Seaham
 Of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,
 K. C. B., G. C. H., K. B. E., K. R. E., K. S. G., K. S., K. T. S., &c. &c.
 Laid the Foundation Stone
 Of Seaham Harbour,
 A. D., 1828, Nov. 28th.

Having married Frances Anne Vane Tempest, only daughter of Sir Henry Vane Tempest, bart., by Anne, Countess of Antrim, he became possessed of the estates and collieries of the Vane and Tempest families of the county of Durham, and having added and annexed the estate of Seaham to the same, he embarked in the construction of this harbour, with an humble and confident hope of facilitating the exportation of the produce of the mines, and of augmenting the commercial interest of the county of Durham. In this undertaking, the founder has been chiefly advised by the tried experience and indefatigable industry of his valued friend and agent,
 John Buddle, Esq., of Wallsend.

William Chapman, Esq., Engineer."

The inscription on the plate placed in the foundation stone of the town was as follows :—

" George Henry Robert Charles Vane,
 Viscount Seaham,
 Laid the Foundation Stone
 Of the First House of Seaham Town,
 Nov. 28th, 1828, A. D.

John Dobson, Esq., Architect."

1828 (*Nov. 30*).—Considerable anxiety was felt in Newcastle for several days, in consequence of Mr. Thomas Gibson, the comptroller of the customs, and eldest son of the late Benjamin Gibson, esq., having on the above day (Sunday), left his own house at Chimney-mills, on the edge of the Leazes, at five o'clock in the afternoon to take his usual walk, (his custom whether rain or fair) and not returning home again. Mr. Ridley, a neighbour, saw him go out at the gate on to the Moor, and take the direction of the race course. Not coming back to tea, Mrs. Gibson became rather alarmed, and, accompanied by a friend, went out with lanterns late that night, and again by three o'clock on the morning, (being moonlight) but no traces of him could be found. Search of every description was made during the week, and it was only on Friday afternoon that Mr. Taylor Gibson, his brother, got information that a straw hat had been taken up on Monday morning in the Bull's Park at the south end of the town-moor, which proved to be the hat Mr. Gibson had on when he went out. Mr. Ridley above named, hearing of this, took a survey of the neighbourhood, and very soon almost made himself certain that Mr. Gibson had slipped into a runner of water near the mouth of a large conduit (on the north side of the new water pond on the moor) that took its course into the Bull's Park, and on exploring this on the Saturday the body was found. W. Fife, esq., the coroner, held an inquest on the body the same evening, and the following verdict was given :—" On Saturday the 6th day of December inst., the body of Thomas Gibson, who had been missing since Sunday the 30th of November, was found drowned and suffocated in a certain conduit situated on the town-moor,

in the parish of St. Nicholas, in the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne; that the said Thomas Gibson had no marks of violence appearing on his body, otherwise than might be occasioned by having passed a considerable space along the conduit, and that the jurors are of opinion the said Thomas Gibson had fallen into the entrance of the said conduit, and had been swept away by the violence of the flood which at that time prevailed, in consequence of a long and continued rain which had been falling on Saturday and Sunday the 29th and 30th of November." Mr. Gibson, when found, was very little altered in his appearance. He was in his 64th year, was a man of mild and affectionate disposition and very charitable to the poor. The flood, as soon as Mr. Gibson's body had stopped, had burst the conduit upwards in the Bull's Park, and the hat had been thrown up through the aperture. Two pit boys had been employed to explore the conduit from the mouth, and air holes were occasionally made for them until they came to the body of the unfortunate gentleman at the distance of 250 yards. Mr. Gibson had been at church with his brother on the Sunday morning, and afterwards took a walk before dinner. After he had dined, he put on his old clothes and assisted the servant in clearing the yard which was much flooded by the rain, and then went out as above stated. The mouth of the conduit was three feet high, and it was satisfactorily proved on the inquest, that Mr. Gibson had met his death, by getting, through mistake in the dark, into the ditch or line of the conduit, and by the impetuosity of the flood had been thrown down and forced into it without the least possibility of extricating himself.

1828 (*Dec. 1*).—A melancholy accident occurred at Townley-main colliery, near Stella. The river Tyne having been swelled to an unusual height by a continued rain, the water reached an old boreing which communicated with the workings, and poured into the mine in such quantities as to drown an old man who was unfortunately below, and fourteen horses.

December 5.—A dispute took place between the corporation of Newcastle, and the stewards of the incorporated companies of that town, as to the right of the former, or their lessee, to break the ground for the purpose of coming at the minerals beneath the town-moor, the property of the freemen. The corporation having granted a lease to the Rev. R. H. Brandling (who possessed the adjoining land) of the coal under the town-moor, and that with a view to work it, Mr. Brandling or his sub-lessee, had broken the surface at a stone quarry on the west side of the barracks, where he had opened a pit, constructed a railway, and erected a depôt. This the stewards contended, Mr. B. had no right to do, and having obtained the opinion of an eminent barrister (Mr. Alderson) in their favour, they gave Mr. Brandling notice to remove his erections, and to restore the ground to its former state. Mr. B. having disregarded this notice, the stewards met on the above day (Friday) at the place in question, when they threw down the depôt, displaced the railways, and laid off the working of the coal; they also

issued an order for rubbish to be led, and the excavation filled up. No action followed these proceedings.

1828 (*Dec. 6*).—About five o'clock in the evening, a small corn loft, the property of Mr. Scott, maltster, at the foot of the Bottle Bank, Gateshead, came down with a heavy crash, to the no small alarm of the neighbourhood. The building had not been erected above eight or nine years, and decay was no way perceptible. There were about thirteen lasts of barley in it at the time. The maltman and his son had a narrow escape; they were going up the yard on their way to the building at the moment of its giving way.

December 8.—As a coachman was returning from Whitley towards North Shields with a carriage and pair, the horses taking fright, darted forward, threw the driver from his seat, and continued at a rapid pace, clearing all the turns until they arrived at Shields, where they passed along several streets, and finished their career by running down the long and steep steps that lead from Dock-wray-square to the Low Lights, without any other injury than a broken pole. The coachman was not much hurt.

December 20.—As some workmen were digging in the kitchen of an old house in Warren-street, Sunderland, for the purpose of lowering the floor, they found a human skeleton quite entire, about two feet below the floor which had been a flagged one. Conjectures with respect to this deposit were numerous, but none satisfactory, so that the circumstance relating to the interment of the body remained veiled in mystery.

This year the following whimsical exemption from the militia appeared amongst the returns posted on the door of St. Mary's church, in Gateshead:—"Exempt—a recruiting sergeant in the army of Immanuel, whose kingdom is not of this world, viz.—a licensed Wesleyan Methodist Preacher." Signed. "Hodgson Casson." Mr. Casson at the time was the minister of the Methodist chapel in Gateshead.

1829 (*Jan. 1*).—The congregation assembling at the Tuthill-stairs chapel, Newcastle, presented three valuable pieces of plate to their pastor, the Rev. Richard Pengilly, as a token of their respect and esteem on his completion of twenty-one years' ministry in that place.

January 3.—The foundation stone of a new and extensive mansion-house, to be executed in the Gothic style, for Henry John William Collingwood, esq., at Lilburn Tower, near Wooler, in Northumberland, was laid with much ceremony. About one o'clock, Mr. Collingwood accompanied by several gentlemen and a large body of peasantry arrived, when Mr. C. with an elegant silver trowel, proceeded to perform the ceremony, under the direction of Mr. John Dobson, the architect, who exhibited several highly-finished drawings of the intended structure. Under the stone were deposited two glass vessels, one containing the different coins of the reign of George IV., the other a newspaper of the 3rd of January, together with a MS. containing the following names:—"Robert Hall, *Alnwick*, mason; Thomas Wallace and Sons,

Newcastle, carpenters and joiners; Ralph Dodds, *Newcastle*, plasterer, Robert Wallace, clerk of the works." Both vessels were sealed with the arms of Collingwood. A glass plate was also inclosed of very curious workmanship, done by Pellat and Green, London, patentees of incrustation, bearing the following inscription:—"The foundation stone of this building, Lilburn Tower, was laid by Henry John William Collingwood, esq., on the 3rd of January, 1829, being the anniversary of his marriage with Frances Carnaby Haggerston.—John Dobson, esq., architect, *Newcastle*." After the ceremony the whole of the party joined in three times three cheers; after which, "Prosperity to the house of Collingwood and success to the building." Mr. C. and his friends then retired to a dinner provided on the occasion. The workmen and the neighbouring people were plentifully regaled with bread and cheese and strong ale, &c.

1829 (*Jan. 6*).—At a monthly meeting of the Literary and Philosophical Society of *Newcastle*, a motion was made, pursuant to a notice at the previous meeting, that the cast of Mr. Lough's colossal statue of Milo, presented by him, and which had been placed in the large room of the institution, should be removed to some more private situation (the committee-room was suggested) until the intended arcade behind the building could be erected. The reasons assigned for this motion were, that it was against the original intention of the society to accumulate such works, and that it was offensive to good taste. After some discussion the motion was negatived by a very large majority. Mr. Lough, the celebrated sculptor, is a native of Northumberland. The cast of Milo, with the pedestal, is about fourteen feet in height.

January 7.—Brunswick-place chapel, *Newcastle*, was re-opened, after being closed for several weeks, undergoing new painting and other improvements. The Rev. Mr. Lessey, preached, after which a collection was made in aid of the improvements. A splendid new organ of 18 stops, made by Messrs. Wood, Small, and Bruce, of Edinburgh, was put up, the former one having been found too small for so large a congregation. The front is an unique and elegant specimen of the Gothic style, after a design of Mr. T. M. Richardson, artist, of *Newcastle*.

January 16.—Being the anniversary of the birth of the hon. Charles William Lambton, son of Lord Durham, the union society of change ringers, belonging to *Newcastle* and Gateshead, rang 4536 changes of grandsire triples upon the bells of St. Mary's church, Gateshead, in two hours and fifty-eight minutes. This was a feat which had never been performed on these bells on any similar occasion before. In the latter part of the day several shorter peals of changes were rung. The bells of the several churches in Durham were rung on the same occasion.

January 25.—Died in London, at a very advanced age, upwards of 80 years, Mr. William Shield, the eminent composer.—Mr. Shield was born at Whickham, in the county of Durham, and was first taught to modulate his voice and practice the violin, when

he was only six years old, by his father, and subsequently received a few lessons of thorough-bass in his juvenile years, from the celebrated Avison, of Newcastle. At the death of his father he was bound apprentice to Edward Davison, boat-builder, in South Shields; and, during his servitude, led the Newcastle subscription concerts, where he repeatedly played the solo parts of Geminiani's and Giordini's concertos. Having produced an admired specimen of sacred music, when the new chapel was to be consecrated at Sunderland, he was requested to compose the anthem, which was performed by the then excellent Durham choir, to an immense congregation, in the year 1769.—*See vol. i. page 268.* At Scarborough, in the fashionable spa season, he was the occasional leader of the concerts, and the constant one in the orchestra of the theatre, for which he composed many songs written by Cunningham, the pastoral poet, who was an actor in Bates' company at that period. At this time he accepted an offer to fill a vacant seat in the orchestra of the Italian Opera-house, London, and after being there many years, he became the musical director of Covent-garden theatre, and was also appointed one of the musicians in ordinary to his majesty. At the death of Sir William Parsons, his majesty George IV., most graciously appointed him master of his musicians in ordinary. His works are very numerous; perhaps no writer is so remarkable for songs containing so much that is strictly national; and, after Purcell, Shield was considered to be the finest and most perfect example of really English writers.

1829 (*Jan. 26*).—The bachelors of Durham gave a brilliant ball at the assembly-rooms, in that city, and, notwithstanding the very unfavourable state of the weather, there were 216 persons present, comprising nearly all the rank and fashion of the county, besides several families of rank and consequence from Newcastle and its neighbourhood. The dresses of the ladies were very splendid. Dancing commenced at ten o'clock; and the ball was led off by the marchioness of Londonderry and William Russell, esq., M. P., of Brancepeth castle. At half-past twelve o'clock the company sat down to a splendid supper, at which John Allan, esq., of Blackwell, presided, and William Mills, esq., of Willington, officiated as vice-president. The chairman proposed the health of the ladies and gentlemen who had honoured the bachelors with their presence. The marquis of Londonderry, after acknowledging the compliment, proposed the health of the bachelors. Mr. Allan, in a very humorous speech, returned thanks, and expressed great confidence that the fascinations of the ladies present would have the happy effect of speedily reducing the number of his unfortunate brethren who, he was instructed to say, were heartily tired of their "single blessedness," and concluded by proposing the healths of the single ladies. Mr. Shafto, of Whitworth park, proposed the health of Mr. Allan, which was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm. The healths of the committee of management were then proposed, and a high compliment paid for their excellent arrangements. Mr. Robert Henry Allan

returned thanks on behalf of the committee. The healths of the marquis of Cleveland, Mr. Russell, and Mr. Ralph Lambton, were proposed in appropriate speeches. Dancing was resumed at half-past two o'clock, and kept up with great spirit till six o'clock on the morning. The following are the names of the bachelors, the donors of the splendid entertainment. viz.:—1. * John Fawcett, esq., Newton Hall; 2. * Rev. C. Fawcett, Durham; 3. * Henry Stapylton, esq., Durham; 4. * W. E. Wooller, esq., Durham; 5. J. D. Lambton, esq., Durham; 6. Thomas Griffith, esq., Durham; 7. George Appleby, esq., Durham; 8. George Wilkinson, esq., Durham; 9. G. P. Hutchinson, esq., Chilton; 10. Robert Burrell, jun., esq., Durham; 11. * Robert Henry Allan, esq., Durham; 12. William Mills, esq., Willington; 13. A. W. Hutchinson, esq., Durham; 14. T. C. Grainger, esq., Durham; 15. G. D. Wooller, esq., Fawnlees; 16. William Russell, esq., M. P., Brancepeth castle; 17. H. J. Spearman, esq., Durham; 18. A. Wilkinson, esq., Coxhoe Hall; 19. William Allan, esq., Blackwell Grange; 20. Thomas Maude, esq., Selaby; 21. Gerard Salvin, esq., Croxdale; 22. John Allan, esq., Blackwell; 23. W. R. C. Chaytor, esq., Witton Castle; 24. Rev. S. Gamlen, Heighington; 25. Rev. T. Ebdon, Durham; 26. Edward Shipperdson, esq., Durham; 27. Hutton Chaytor, esq., Witton Castle; 28. Rowland Burdon, jun., esq., Castle Eden; 29. C. Raine, esq., Gainford; 30. Thomas Fenwick, esq., South Hill; 31. John Chaytor, esq., Witton Castle; 32. R. D. Shafto, esq., Whitworth Park; 33. Rev. O. J. Cresswell, Seaham; 34. William Williamson, esq., Whitburn; 35. Richard Wright, esq., Sands; 36. A. Storey, esq., Chester-le-Street; 37. John Hutchinson, esq., Durham; 38. William Trotter, esq., Bishop Auckland; 39. F. D. Johnson, esq., Aykley Heads; 40. H. F. Mills, esq., Willington.

1829 (*Jan. 29*).—A grand ball was given by William Russell, esq., M. P., at Brancepeth castle, to the gentry of the county of Durham, &c., when the honourable gentleman was honoured by the presence of an assemblage of visitors, as conspicuous, perhaps, for rank, wealth, youth, and beauty, as ever was witnessed in that neighbourhood; and it may be truly said, that an entertainment more princely in its nature, or one that imparted more perfect satisfaction to those who were present, was never given in the north on any previous occasion. The whole of the external arrangements of the castle had a fine appearance; but, striking as these were, they were but trifling in comparison with the matchless brilliancy of the preparations made for the reception of the company within—preparations alike extensive and splendid, and on a scale of true baronial magnificence. The great dining room was fitted up for dancing, and in the retiring-rooms adjoining, refreshments of every kind were set out for the use of the company. The guests, after passing through the entrance-hall (in which Mr. Russell's private band was stationed), the baron's-hall, and the breakfast-room, were received by their honourable host in the drawing-room, from whence they proceeded to the ball-room. The appearance of this

* Those marked with an asterisk, formed the committee of management.

was beautiful in the extreme. The rich and elegant dresses of the ladies, and the blaze of beauty, far eclipsing the extrinsic decorations by which the company were surrounded, presented a scene of the most dazzling splendour, grace, and loveliness. The ball opened with a country dance, led off by Mr. Russell and the marchioness of Londonderry, which was followed by quadrilles and waltzes, which continued until two o'clock, when supper was announced, and the party were ushered to a collation of the most sumptuous and costly description, in the armour-gallery and the octagon-room, where upwards of 200 sat down to the banquet.—Mr. Russell presided at the centre, with the hon. Captain Cochrane opposite to him, and Colonel Mills at the upper end, and Mr. Allan, of Blackwell, at the lower end of the table. On the conclusion of the supper Mr. Russell said, that this being the anniversary of the king's accession to the throne, he would take the opportunity of proposing his majesty's health, which was drunk with acclamation. The health of Mr. Russell was next drunk with great enthusiasm, and the following toasts were given in succession :—"The ladies," "The marquis of Londonderry," "Mr. Bell and Northumberland," and "Mrs. Russell." After supper the ladies returned to the ball-room, where dancing was resumed a little before four o'clock with great spirit, and maintained by the gay and happy throng until a much later hour.

1829 (*Jan. 29*).—Being the anniversary of his majesty's accession to the throne, the union society of change ringers belonging to Newcastle, rang a peal of Holt's grandsire triples, consisting of 5040 changes, on the bells of Gateshead church, in three hours and seventeen minutes. This peal had not been rung upon these bells since the year 1794.

January 30.—In compliance with a requisition, very respectably signed, the chamberlains of the borough of Alnwick convened a meeting of the inhabitants at the town-hall, to take into consideration "the propriety of presenting an address to his grace the duke of Northumberland, previous to his grace's departure from Alnwick castle, to enter upon his official duties as lord-lieutenant of Ireland." The meeting, composed of the principal inhabitants, was numerously attended, and John Lambert, esq., (under-sheriff of Northumberland,) was called to the chair. After some preliminary observations, expressive of the beneficence and amiable qualities of the noble duke, an address was proposed and unanimously agreed to, and a deputation appointed to present it. His grace having named the next day, at 12 o'clock, to receive the address, the deputation, consisting of Jno. Lambert, J. Leithhead, G. Selby, Jos. Hardy, William Strother, W. F. Bow, M.D., P. Dennis, and Wm. Dixon, esquires, the rev. W. Proctor, the rev. Thomas Ingham, and Messrs. J. Lindsay, Joseph Graham, E. Cattanach, W. Hindmarsh, and M. Smith, proceeded to the castle, and were received by his grace in the grand saloon. After the address had been read by Mr. Lambert, that gentleman passed a very high encomium on his grace's good qualities, to which his grace made a suitable reply.

The deputation, after partaking of refreshments provided for them in an adjoining room, left the castle much pleased with the urbanity of his grace, and the reception he had given them.

1828 (*Jan 31*).—Died, at his house in Saville Row, Newcastle, after a long and painful illness, Mr. Henry Atkinson, schoolmaster, aged 47 years. As a mathematician he had few equals, and his knowledge of various other subjects was both comprehensive and accurate. He was born on the 28th of June, 1781, at West Harle, Northumberland, and was the son of Mr. Cuthbert Atkinson, afterwards a schoolmaster at Great Bavington. He commenced teaching in his 13th year, in the neighbourhood where he was born, but removed to Newcastle in the year 1808. In the following year he became a member of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, from which time, until his death, he was one of its most distinguished members. He was chosen one of the committee of that body in the year 1817, and was re-elected every succeeding year, until the anniversary preceding his death, when he declined on account of bad health. Mr. A. was the author of many valuable mathematical and other papers, many of which were read at the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle. He was also a valuable contributor to the Ladies' and Gentlemen's Diaries, and obtained the prizes in the former in the years 1811, 1816, and 1823, and in the latter in 1819. In the year 1827, Mr. Atkinson delivered a course of lectures on Astronomy in the lecture-room of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle.

January.—This month, one of those rare and beautiful gold coins, a rose-noble of Edward I., was found on the estate of William Pawson, esq., of Shawdon, in Northumberland. On the impress is a figure of the monarch seated in an ancient ship, bearing on his shoulder a shield containing the arms of England, France, and Ireland, with the legend. "*Sic ibi at per undas.*"

February 2.—At the court of Windsor, present the King's most excellent majesty in council, his majesty was pleased to declare, Hugh duke of Northumberland, knight of the most noble order of the garter, lieutenant-general and general-governor of that part of the united kingdom called Ireland. His grace left Alnwick castle for London on the 4th February. Her grace the duchess passed through Newcastle on the preceding day.

February 6.—The Newcastle newspapers published this day, (Friday) contained an advertisement offering £100 reward for the apprehension of a man named Jonathan Martin, charged with having set fire to York Minster, which was discovered in flames on the morning of the 2d of February. As soon as the papers reached Hexham, no time was lost in commencing a search for Martin, whose person and haunts were well known, and by eleven o'clock on the forenoon he was in the custody of Mr. Stainthorpe, the sheriff's officer. Stainthorpe, on reading the advertisement, instantly set off on horseback northwards, called at Wall Barns, the residence of Mr. Thompson, a relation of Martin, where he learnt

his retreat, and proceeding to Codlaw-hill, about four miles from Hexham, he found the delinquent in the house of Mr. E. Kell; the latter ignorant of the enormities with which his guest was charged, accompanied the officer with his prisoner to Hexham, where, without the least resistance, he was lodged in the house of correction. Martin, who had long laboured under aberration of mind, seemed to have no consciousness of guilt for the crime he had committed; he was visited by several gentlemen on Friday afternoon, to whom he was remarkably communicative, not only acknowledging the deed, but defending his conduct, and even expressing his satisfaction at his plan having been so effective. On Sunday the 8th, Mr. Newstead of York, arrived in Newcastle, and proceeded to Hexham, from whence he returned with the prisoner in a post chaise, accompanied by Mr. Stainthorpe and Mr. Richard Nicholson, in whose custody at a lunatic asylum on Gateshead Fell, Martin had formerly been. The prisoner was lodged in the gaol of that town from one o'clock to three o'clock in the afternoon, during which time a great concourse of people collected in the streets adjoining the prison. One of the rooms in the entrance building had been prepared for him, and while there, Mr. Sopwith, the governor of the gaol, repressed all attempts to obtain information from the prisoner. He sent him some dinner, which he ate with great relish, and drank a quantity of water. He wore the double breasted blue coat, with yellow buttons, blue trowsers, and half boots, described in the advertisement; and though rather jaded with fatigue, he seemed in perfectly good spirits, and quite rational and innocent in his behaviour. The pockets of his drab great coat contained some pieces of candles, and Mr. Stainthorpe had in his possession the black leather case in which he carried the tinder to the cathedral, and in which were small fragments of stained glass. He had also a white hafted razor, hacked on the back, with which he struck the fatal spark, and some curtains and tassels which he had abstracted from the cathedral. The prisoner and his conductors arrived at York about three o'clock on Monday morning in a post chaise. The magistrates, &c., having been assembled for his examination, the whole of the proceedings were over soon after six o'clock, and he was committed to the city gaol. Few persons knew of his arrival, consequently all mobbing was avoided. Martin's trial came on at York on the 31st of March, and after a trial of upwards of ten hours, the jury found a verdict of not guilty, on the ground of insanity. He was removed on the 28th of April to the criminal lunatic asylum, St. George's Fields, London, to be confined for life. This unfortunate maniac was born in the year 1782, at Highside House, near Hexham, of humble parents, who apprenticed him to a tanner. In his 22d year he went to London, where he was impressed and sent to sea on board the Hercules, a 74 gun ship. While on board this vessel he was engaged in the bombardment of Copenhagen. He was afterwards engaged in the blockade of the Russian ships in the Tagus, and from thence sailed

to Corunna, where the wreck of Sir John Moore's army was embarked. Subsequently he sailed to Egypt, being then "under strong religious impressions," and was "filled with delight on beholding the place where our Blessed Lord took refuge from the rage of Herod." He travelled the northern counties selling copies of a pamphlet, entitled, "The Life of Jonathan Martin, of Darlington, tanner, written by himself, &c. Barnardcastle, printed for, and sold by the author, by Thomas Clifton, 1826, *price 8d.*" 8vo. This *very curious* pamphlet is embellished with *equally curious* engravings by his brother, William Martin, the *Natural Philosopher and Poet*. The subjects are,—1. *The Colosses at Rhodes*. 2. *His providential escape from a watery grave in the Bay of Biscay four different times; and*, 3. *His providential escape from the Asylum House, on Gateshead fell*. On the 9th of May, 1827, I purchased a copy of this work of Jonathan Martin. He was dressed in rather an eccentric manner, having on a pair of trowsers and a waistcoat made of seals' skin, with the hair outwards; this he said was for the purpose of resisting any wet weather which he might encounter in his travels to sell his pamphlets which were contained in a pair of saddle bags thrown across his shoulders. I desired him to write his name upon the title page of the copy which I purchased, and this he immediately complied with. *See page 81.*

1829 (*Feb. 6*).—A grand *subterranean ball* was given to the workmen and others employed at Gosforth colliery, on account of the coal having been won on the Saturday (January 31st) previous. The *ball-room*, which was situated at the depth of nearly 1,100 feet below the surface of the earth was in the shape of an L, whose width was 15 feet, base 22 feet, and perpendicular 48 feet. Seats were placed on the sides of the *room*, the floor was flagged, and the whole place was brilliantly illuminated with lamps and candles. The company began to assemble and descend about half-past nine on the morning, and continued to do so till one in the afternoon. Immediately on their arrival at the bottom of the shaft, they proceeded to the *face*, that is the extremity of the drift, where each person *hewed* a piece of coal as a remembrance of the descent, and returned to enjoy the pleasures of the *ball-room*. As soon as a sufficient number of guests had descended, dancing commenced, and was continued without intermission till three o'clock in the afternoon, when all ascended once more to the upper regions in safety, much pleased and gratified with the amusements in which they had partaken. The Coxlodge band was in attendance, cold punch, malt liquor, and biscuits of all kinds were in abundance. There were present between 200 and 300 persons, nearly one-half of whom were females!!!

February 19.—A policy of insurance was introduced into Lloyd's which attracted much attention. It was for £90,000. on the plate and jewels of the duke of Northumberland, from London to Dublin, for all risks for one year. The premium was charged 25s. per cent. *February 27th*, the William Faucit steam vessel arrived in the river Liffey from London, laden principally with the baggage

and plate of his grace the duke of Northumberland. She had on board four of his grace's carriages, and about 200 packages of various kinds, including the plate. March 2d, the duke and duchess left London for Ireland; they proceeded in the first instance to the seat of Earl Powis, the father of the duchess. March 6th, their graces arrived at Dublin, where they were received by upwards of 20,000 spectators with the most joyous cheering.

1829 (*Feb*).—A complete gangway or draw jetty, which can be taken up and let down at pleasure, was erected on the Quay at Newcastle, at the expense of the corporation of that town, for the ingress and egress of passengers to and from the steam packets. The lives of the passengers were before in very imminent danger. A similar erection has since been put up on the New Quay at North Shields.

March 1.—Died in Howard-street, South Shields, Alice Gibson, widow of William Gibson, town-crier, aged 101 years.

March 5.—The foundation stone of a new Independent chapel was laid in King's-street, Morpeth, and on Sunday the 15th a discourse was delivered by the Rev. Thomas Wood, A. B., on the principles of congregational dissent. Viscount Morpeth, M. P., and William Ord, esq., M. P., each presented £5., towards the erection. September 20th, this chapel was opened for divine service. Sermons were preached by the Rev. Thomas Wood, and the Rev. W. H. Stowell, of North Shields, and collections were made, amounting to upwards of £30.

March 7.—The Leazes Terrace and the Leazes Crescent were commenced being built by Mr. Richard Grainger.

Same day, Jane Jameson was executed on the town-moor, Newcastle, for the murder of her mother, Margaret Jameson, an inmate of the keelmen's hospital, by stabbing her into the heart with a red-hot poker. After her condemnation on the 5th, she was frequently visited in her cell by the Rev. Robert Green, chaplain of the prison, who gave her all the religious consolation in his power. When exhorted by the chaplain to unburden her mind and confess the justice of the sentence under which she was about to suffer, she replied, "I might as well say that I had done it, as that I had not done it, for I was so drunk that I knew nothing at all about it." She said that she was resigned to her fate, but lamented the being hanged like a dog. At seven o'clock on the Saturday morning she was visited by the Rev. R. Green, who continued in prayer with her for some time. The sacrament was administered at eight o'clock, when, besides the chaplain, there were present the Rev. W. A. Shute, and the Rev. F. A. West, Wesleyan minister. A quarter before nine she was pinioned, and in a few minutes the cart arrived at the gaol which was to convey her to the place of execution. Mr. Turner, the turnkey, got into it with her in order to support her, but she sat amazingly firm all the way. About nine o'clock the procession moved at a very slow pace, in the following order:—The town serjeants on horseback in black, with cocked hats and swords; the town marshal also on horseback in his

usual official dress; the cart with the prisoner sitting above her coffin, guarded on each side by eight free porters with javelins, and ten constables with their staves; then came a mourning coach containing the Rev. R. Green, Mr. Adamson, under sheriff, Mr. Sopwith, gaoler, and Mr. Scott, clerk of St. Andrews. The unhappy woman kept her eyes shut all the way, as she had been desired, that her thoughts might not be disturbed by the sight of the crowd. Having arrived at the gallows, which was erected on the town-moor, a little N.W. of the barracks, at a few minutes before ten o'clock, the Rev. R. Green prayed with her, and a psalm was sung; the Rev. Gentleman recommended her to continue in prayer till the last moment, which she appeared to do, then shook hands with her, and bidding her farewell, said, "May Almighty God have mercy on your soul." She was uncommonly firm, and when the cap was placed over her face, she got on a stool upon the platform in the cart, and when the cord was adjusted about her neck, she said in a steady tone of voice, "I am ready," then stooping as if to meet her fate, she was launched into eternity almost without a struggle. She was suspended at exactly ten o'clock, and was cut down at five minutes before eleven. The body was then conveyed to the Surgeons'-hall, where, in the piazza or ground floor of that building, the body was exhibited (not dissected, but with the clothes on as cut down) to the public until near six o'clock in the evening. Anatomical lectures were delivered upon the body for several days by Mr. John Fife, surgeon. It was given in evidence on the trial, that her mother had charged her with destroying her two illegitimate children, and it was currently reported, that in one of her mad drunken fits she had attempted to cut the throat of her father. She hawked fish and other commodities, and was a most disgusting and abandoned female of most masculine appearance, generally in a state of half nudity. She perhaps never was so decently dressed as when upon her trial, having on at that time a black gown, black hat, and green shawl. A sketch was taken of her when standing at the bar, and afterwards done in lithography, which may be had of John Sykes. Public curiosity was excited to an uncommon degree, as there had not been a female hanged in Newcastle for 71 years. *See vol. i. page 222.* There were not less, it was supposed, than 20,000 spectators at the execution of Jameson, more than one-half of whom were females, besides every window in the line of the procession was crowded with spectators. In the dense crowd near the gallows, several pockets were picked during the awful ceremony. As the expenses attending the execution of this unfortunate female may be considered a curiosity, I have here subjoined them from "A statement of the corporation and steward's accounts for one year, commencing Michaelmas 1828, ending Michaelmas 1829."

"Expenses attending the Execution of J. Jameson."

	£.	s.	d.
" To seven serjeants, 5s. each,	1	15	0
To twenty constables, 3s. 6d. each,	3	10	0

	£.	s.	d.
To sixteen free porters, 5s. each,	4	0	0
To tolling St. Andrew's great bell,	0	2	6
To executioner,.....	3	3	0
To halter and cord,	0	3	0
To cart and driver,	0	15	0
To mourning coach,.....	0	15	6
To nine horses for officers, 5s, each,.....	2	5	0
To summoning twenty constables, 6d. each,	0	10	0
To allowance for free porters, serjeants, constables, &c.	2	18	0
To a person attending the prisoner to the place of execution,	0	5	0
To joiners' bill,.....	8	5	3
To allowance to joiners,".....	0	6	0
	<hr/>		
	£28	13	3

Here is a round sum for executing this poor creature. The "joiners' bill," it must be understood, was for erecting the temporary gallows, making the coffin, &c. &c.

1829 (*March 10*).—Mr. Peel having announced his intention of bringing before parliament a bill to remove certain civil disabilities from his majesty's Roman Catholic subjects, making them eligible to every office in the state, excepting those of lord chancellor, lord keeper of the seal, and lord lieutenant of Ireland, two very inveterate parties arose in Newcastle, which were strongly opposed to each other, insomuch that the town for some weeks was inundated with party papers. At length the liberals, as those in favour of the Catholics styled themselves, sent a requisition to the mayor, to call a public meeting "to consider the expediency of petitioning parliament for a removal of the civil disabilities which affect his majesty's Roman Catholic subjects." This his worship agreed to, and appointed the above day in the Guild-hall. The anti-catholic party apprehending that their opponents would pre-occupy this place, and that they would be outvoted, addressed a requisition to the mayor, to change the place of meeting "to the Spital, Forth, or any other place which will give an opportunity for a fair and decisive expression of public opinion." In accordance with this, a public meeting was held in the Spital-field on the above day. The mayor, in order to allow sufficient space for all who might be desirous of attending and expressing their sentiments, appointed this spacious area which will hold above 20,000 persons, for the discussion of the question. Very extensive hustings were erected on the north side of the green, and at one o'clock (the time appointed) the right worshipful Robert Bell, esq., mayor, took the chair. The friends of the Catholic claims took the right, with a board affixed to the adjoining building, inscribed "The Hustings of the Liberal Protestants," while those anxious to "prevent a breach into the constitution of 1688," occupied the opposite side. Both parties mustered strong; the "Liberals" marched from the Turk's Head inn to the hustings in a body, headed by James Losh, esq., Dr. Headlam, and W. H. Ord, esq., of Whitfield. On the mayor taking the chair, he was welcomed with hearty cheers from both parties, and he rose and addressed the meeting. His worship said he

wished to occupy the time of his auditors for a short period, in order to exonerate himself from the charge of partiality, which he understood had been brought against him, for refusing, on the application of the vicar of Newcastle, to convene a meeting in the Guildhall for the purpose of opposing the Catholic claims, and to oppose the measures intended to be introduced to parliament by his majesty's ministers. It was his wish that the clergy should not interfere in a question wherein he thought his majesty's ministers were quite capable of acting for us; but he soon heard that they had nevertheless got up a petition against the Catholic claims, and thus rendered it necessary to make an effort on the contrary side. A second request had consequently been made by that party to him, and in compliance with their requisition, he had convened a meeting in the Guildhall for that purpose, when another requisition had been presented by the former party, requesting a more ample space, and in order that all so inclined might deliver their sentiments, he had changed the place to where they were at present assembled, but still he thought interference unnecessary, as he was confident that ministers were best enabled to take care of the measures they had introduced under the sanction of the highest authority. The principal speakers in favour of the Catholics were, James Losh, esq., Dr. Headlam, and W. H. Ord, esq.—against granting concessions to the Catholics, William Chapman, esq., Mr. Joseph Clark, the Rev. F. A. West, Wesleyan minister, Mr. J. F. Grant, and Mr. J. R. Featherstone. With the exception of some little squabbling among the speakers, the greatest order prevailed, indeed the mayor took every means to avoid mischief, having ordered, by a handbill, that no banners should be exhibited. Mr. mayor having desired a shew of hands for and against the petition he said, “gentlemen, the petition in favour of the Catholics is rejected.” Immense cheering followed the decision. Dr. Headlam appearing not satisfied with the result, demanded that the parties should separate into two bodies, which was instantly done, and the great majority of the opponents of the petition was evident beyond doubt. Mr. Mayor then said, “I cannot dismiss this meeting without declaring my satisfaction at your peaceable conduct this day.” His worship then left the hustings.

1829 (*March 11*).—The vestry petitions against concession to the Roman Catholics were transmitted from Newcastle to London for presentation to parliament. The total number of signatures was 7,724, viz.:—In the parish of St. Nicholas, 1,095; All Saint's, 3,445; St. Andrew's, 1,694; St. John's, 1,490.

March 14.—In the night, a fire took place in St. John's church, Gateshead Fell, in consequence of some wood-work being placed too near the stove flues for heating the church. Fortunately it was discovered so early, that by prompt assistance and great exertions it was got under with the destruction of one pew.

March 19.—Died, at Brandling-place, near Newcastle, Mr. Benjamin Thompson, aged 51 years. Mr. Thompson was a native of Jesmond, near Newcastle, and at an early age was bound an

apprentice to Mr. Thompson, bread-baker, (no relation) in the Close, Newcastle. On the death of his master, he commenced business in the same shop, and made a peculiar sort of household bread, which had an unprecedented sale, being used by many genteel families whom he furnished with it daily himself, carrying a heavy load of it in a basket upon his shoulders.* Although Mr. Thompson was particularly industrious and attentive to business, yet he devoted much of his time to the merits of paintings, and had visited nearly all the private collections in Newcastle and its neighbourhood. His judgment was frequently consulted by gentlemen in the purchase of paintings, prints, &c. It was not a little singular, that when called upon by visitors, he was often to be found toiling at his daily labour in the bakehouse, or, without his coat in the front shop, in the midst of his smoking bread, which had just been drawn from the oven. Without pride or ostentation, his manners and costume were of the plainest kind. By attention to business he had acquired a handsome sum, the bulk of which he expended in the purchase of paintings, prints, books, china, swords, coins, and in short every thing *queer*. Mr. Thompson was in the habit of calling at my shop, and his usual question was, "*have you any thing queer?*" He was particularly attached to local books and prints, so much so, that he was a patron to almost every thing which issued from the press or the burin. He also went regularly round to the old furniture brokers, and picked up many *queer* things in that way. For many years before his death he had made it a rule at the breaking up of a house which had belonged to any family of consequence, to purchase (either himself or by proxy) something as a memorial. Mr. Thompson was very charitable, and had several *pensioners* to whom he gave bread, &c., weekly; indeed his philanthropy was such, that to him the wretched never appealed in vain. Mr. Thompson was never married, consequently his furniture and every thing which he had collected, were sold by auction, and the produce divided according to the tenor of his will.

1829 (*March 19*).—A numerous and respectable meeting of the parishioners of Tynemouth, took place to consider of an order that had been received from the board of ordnance, forbidding any interments in future in the castle yard. The vicar was in the chair. Thomas Wright, esq., of Whitley-park, and other gentlemen, shewed that they had received grants from the governors of Tynemouth castle, for the burial of their families there. J. Tinley, esq., pointed out the impolicy of going to law on this occasion, and it was

* Mr. Joseph Bell, painter, at whose shop window Mr. Thompson frequently stopped, painted (unknown to Mr. T.) a portrait of him with the basket upon his shoulder. This, after the death of Mr. Bell, came into the possession of Mr. Thompson. It is quite a juvenile likeness. I have caused to be engraved for publication a portrait, from an original painting, done for Mr. T. a few years before his death, and which is an excellent likeness.—Mr. T. allowed me to have a copy of this painting taken; it is of the same size, and in water colours. The engraving has a fac-simile of his hand-writing.

ultimately agreed to petition the board of ordnance to take off their prohibition, and if that application should be unsuccessful, it was resolved to petition the king. June 18th, another meeting was held in the vestry-room, and adjourned to the body of the church, the Rev. John Housby in the chair, to consider the propriety of accepting or refusing an offer made by the board of ordnance, of a portion of ground in lieu of the old parochial burial place, within the walls of Tynemouth priory. The meeting, after being addressed by several gentlemen, resolved, with only five dissentient voices, to refuse that offer, and unanimously agreed to present a memorial to his majesty, for a restoration of those rights of which they considered they had been unjustly and unnecessarily deprived by the board of ordnance. October 15th, a third meeting was held in the vestry room of Tynemouth church, at which a letter from the secretary of state addressed to the vicar, was read in reply to a memorial to the king, respecting the right of the parishioners to bury within the walls of Tynemouth castle, in which it was stated, that in consequence of the board of ordnance not recognising the right, he declined advising the king to give any commands on the subject. Amongst the various anachronisms and blunders given on the grave stones in this cemetery, I cannot resist giving a copy verbatim of an epitaph from a stone a little S.E. of the east end of the magnificent ruins of the ancient priory :—" 1780 The burial place of Archd. Rawling, of North Shields, master mariner—also lieth here, Elizabeth, his wife, who died Feb. 11th, 1788.

" Afflictions sore long time I bore,
 " Phisicings were in vain,
 " God thought it fit that I should rest
 " And free me from my pain."

It will easily be perceived, that " Phisicings" instead of physicians, is inserted in the above lines, which turn it into ridicule.

1829 (*March 22*).—Died, William Stevenson, esq. of the Record-office in the Treasury, a gentleman of considerable eminence in the literary and scientific world. Mr. Stevenson, who was born at Berwick, on the 26th of November, 1772, was the author of an elaborate and useful work, entitled an "*Historical Sketch of the Progress of Discovery, Navigation, and Commerce.*" Having devoted much of his time to agricultural pursuits, he wrote the agricultural survey of Surrey. He was also the author of the article on chivalry, in Dr. Brewster's Encyclopedia, the life of Caxton, published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, and several papers published in various reviews. During the latter part of his life, until the commencement of a severe indisposition, he was occupied, on the suggestion of Mr. Brougham (now Lord Brougham), and under the auspices of the above society, in preparing for the press a series of treatises, intended for the edification and improvement of the agricultural classes. Mr. Stevenson had for some time laboured under repeated attacks of illness. On the 20th of March, however, he was apparently so much recovered, that his friends entertained the hope of his speedy restoration ; but

two days afterwards, when sitting at tea with his family, he suddenly became unable to raise the cup to his mouth, sank back in his chair, and soon after expired. He was a man of profound research, of extensive knowledge, of scrupulous integrity; and he was universally respected.

1829 (*March 24*).—The foundation stone of the new butchers', fish, poultry, fruit and vegetable market at Sunderland, was laid by the town-surveyor, Mr. Richard Dowell, in the presence of the commissioners and a great number of the inhabitants. Several coins of the reign of George IV. were deposited beneath the stone. The bells were rung on the occasion. *See August 21st, 1830.*

March 26.—Lanton-house, in Northumberland, was robbed and plundered of every article which could be conveniently carried away, and the mansion was afterwards set fire to, and entirely consumed. Alexander Davison, esq., of Swarland, the proprietor, offered one hundred pounds for the apprehension of the incendiaries.

March 27.—Died, in Providence-row, in the city of Durham, Mr. Robert Davidson, aged 103 years.

March.—Mr. John Martin, a native of Northumberland, the celebrated painter to his majesty, was presented with a large and handsome gold medal, on the part of the king of France, in acknowledgment of a copy of Mr. Martin's engravings, which his most christian majesty had been graciously pleased to accept. The medal has a bust of the king on the one side, and on the other (in French) "Presented to Mr. John Martin, by the king of France." The value of the gold was estimated at twenty guineas. Mr. Martin's engravings are held in very high estimation. The French artists have copied them the same size, but much inferior in execution, these have been brought into England, but no gentleman of *taste* and *judgment*, will possess these pirated prints, as on a comparison they are literally worth nothing compared with the originals. Mr. M. is the brother of William and Jonathan mentioned at pages 81 and 241.

April 11.—The bells of the several churches in Newcastle and Gateshead, were rung in honour of the marriage of Lord Stormont to Miss Ellison, daughter of Cuthbert Ellison, esq., of Hebburn.

April 13.—The bells of Newcastle were rung to celebrate the birth of an heir to the house of Beaumont. The event was also similarly celebrated at Hexham, and other places.

Same day, "An act for building a bridge over the river Tyne, at or near to a place called Scotswood, in the county of Northumberland, and for making convenient roads, avenues, and approaches thereto, with branches thereout," received the royal assent.

April 23.—The foundation stone of the asylum for the members of the loyal standard association, at North Shields, was laid by John Tinley, esq., in the presence of a numerous assemblage of the members, and their friends and patrons.

April 27.—Died, at his seat at Frogmore, near Hampstead, in

consequence of a rupture of the septum of the heart, Thomas William Carr, esq., of Eshot, in Northumberland, F.R.S. He was born about the year 1770, at Charlestown, South Carolina, of which place his mother was a native, and his father at that time collector of customs. He served his clerkship as an attorney to Mr. George Brown, an eminent solicitor in Newcastle, and was entered a student at Gray's Inn. Having practised for several years as a special pleader, he was called to the bar about the year 1800, and in 1805, was made solicitor of excise. He inherited the estate of Eshot Heugh, pursuant to the will of an uncle. He married Frances, third daughter of Andrew Morton, esq., of St. Anthony's, near Newcastle, by whom he had three sons and four daughters. His eldest son is solicitor of excise in Scotland; the second is in holy orders; and the third is a barrister, in London. His eldest daughter married Dr. Lushington.

1829 (*April 28*).—Sunderland and its neighbourhood were visited by an awful storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied with a high wind. Part of the gable end of a house in the High-street, belonging to Mr. Michael Reed, was blown down with a tremendous crash, on the roof of a public house occupied by Mrs. Thompson, which it stove in and did considerable damage. The sloop Bee, of Blyth, laden with limestone, from Sunderland to Blyth, was obliged to put back for Sunderland, (which place she left in the morning), having lost the whole of her canvass at sea, in a most tremendous gale of wind at N. E. and by E. On returning she struck upon the bar, drove amongst the frame-work, and soon after went to pieces. Great praise was due to Mr. Martin Douglas, coal-fitter, and others, for their exertions in saving the crew. The schooner George and Henrys, of Sunderland, laden with lime, for Scotland, went to sea the same time as the Bee, and was obliged to put back. She made for the harbour, when there not being sufficient water for her, she struck upon the bar and sprung a leak; the water then getting to the lime, she took fire, and afterwards drove up into the harbour mouth, where she sunk.

May 4.—The foundation stone of the new gas works at South Shields, was laid.

May 7.—The large silver medal was awarded by the Society of Arts, London, to Mr. John Reed, of No. 6, Charlotte-street, Bloomsbury-square, second son of Archibald Reed, esq., alderman, of Newcastle, for a drawing in chalk from a bust.

May 11.—The races and sports at Killingworth, near Newcastle, were revived on this and the following day, after a lapse of thirty-five years.

May 13.—About twelve o'clock at night, an explosion took place at Killingworth West Moor pit, which did considerable damage to the shaft. One boy was so severely burnt that he died in a day or two after. Had the misfortune happened two hours later, the loss of life would have been very considerable, as the men would then have been in the mine.

May 14.—The royal assent was given to "An act for lighting

watching, cleansing, regulating, and improving the town of South Shields, in the county palatine of Durham."

1829 (*May 22*).—The steam-saw mill at Monkwearmouth-shore, the property of Messrs. Storey and Co., was almost entirely destroyed by fire. It was supposed to have been the work of incendiaries. Two of the workmen were taken up on suspicion.

The same day "An act for making and maintaining a railway or tramroad from the town of Newcastle upon Tyne, in the county of Newcastle upon Tyne, to the city of Carlisle, in the county of Cumberland, with a branch thereout," received the royal assent.

May 26.—Between two and three o'clock on the morning, an alarming and destructive fire broke out in a steam flour mill, situated at the foot of Pandon-bank, near the Stock-bridge, Newcastle, occupied by Mr. Joseph Hopper. So rapid was the progress of the conflagration, that within an hour from its discovery, the roof and part of the walls fell in, exhibiting the interior of the building in one common blaze. The machinery was either totally destroyed, or rendered unfit for further use, and the quantity of corn, flour, &c., destroyed, was very great. As the wind was high, the fire threatened destruction to all around, and one of the sheds of Messrs. Shadforth and Todd's extensive raft-yard, which was immediately behind the mill, did partially suffer from the flames, but by the well-directed operations of the several engines which had arrived, their progress in that quarter was arrested with but trifling damage. How the fire originated was wholly unknown. The premises, which were the property of Messrs. Shadforth and Todd, were insured, but the stock, &c., of Mr. Hopper, valued at near £1,000 was only insured to the amount of about one-half.

May 26.—In the afternoon an alarming fire occurred at the farm-house at High Warden, near Hexham, but happily it was got under before much damage was done to the house. A blacksmith's shop (from which the fire originated) and a small cottage adjoining were totally consumed. Great praise was due to the firemen of Hexham, who hastened with the engine in time to stop the ravages of the flames.

May 26.—The name of the street in Newcastle, called "the Flesh Market," and, after the building of the "New Butchers' Market," "the Old Flesh Market," was changed by the corporation to that of "the Cloth Market."

May 30.—The steam packet, the *Tourist*, which arrived in the river Tyne, for the first time, left Newcastle Quay in the afternoon for London.

May.—This month, on pulling down an old house on the Quay-side, Newcastle, a fine gothic window was discovered in the east side of what was supposed to be the chapel of St. John of Jerusalem. This building, which is of stone, with buttresses on the west side in Grindon Chare, is used as a corn loft; the crypt is used as a cellar. Human bones have been dug up about it. There was anciently in the town's hutch a writing, indorsed "*The agreement made betwixt the Prior of St. John, and the towne of Newcastle,*

touching a water gate." There is now no longer any doubt that this was the chapel of that order, and that the gate alluded to was a contiguous gate in the town's wall, which extended along the Quay. There was also a chapel below the Ouseburn, in the parish of All Saints, dedicated to St. Lawrence, and founded by one of the Percys, which is said to have been dependent on the priory of St. John of Jerusalem. This chapel and its possessions were granted in 1594 to the corporation of Newcastle. The remains of St. Lawrence's chapel form part of the glass-house belonging to Messrs. Robert Todd and Co.

1829 (*May 31*).—A very melancholy occurrence took place at Scremerston, near Berwick. Mr. George Carr, of Berwick, and Mr. William Carr, of Ford, with their sisters, Miss Eliza and Miss Mary Carr, having been on a visit to their brother-in-law, Major Johnson, of Scremerston, accompanied by Miss Jane Donkin (youngest daughter of the late Joshua Donkin, esq., of North Shields), being about to return to Berwick from Scremerston, situated close to the sea, about three miles south from Berwick, procured a stout boat with two able men, one of whom was well accustomed to the sea. The tide being low, they had some difficulty in getting out of the creek, and when they had just cleared the outermost rock, a more than usually heavy wave upset the boat. One of the boatmen, who was a good swimmer, twice gained the rock with Miss Carr, but they were both times washed off and she was drowned. Miss Donkin disappeared at the moment of the accident, but Miss Mary Carr and her two brothers, and the two boatmen ultimately succeeded in gaining a firm footing on a low ledge of the rock, which in some degree protected them from the force of the sea, although every wave dashed over them. Though within 150 yards of safety, the deep water being filled with tangle or sea weed, 13 or 14 feet long, prevented any of the people who were soon assembled from Spital, and the neighbourhood, from venturing to swim to the rock with any prospect of doing good. The boatman, however, with great difficulty, swam to an adjoining rock for the purpose of taking off a rope, in which he succeeded, but it was found much too short to be of use. In another attempt he was with much difficulty saved from drowning. A man on horseback was instantly dispatched to Spital, and two boats were immediately shoved off, and one of them succeeded in rescuing Miss Mary Carr, her two brothers, and the remaining boatman from a watery grave, after having been exposed to the violence of every wave for nearly an hour. Medical assistance being at hand, every attention was paid to the survivors, who all recovered, although much doubt was for some time entertained as to the recovery of the young lady. The body of Miss Donkin was found the same evening floating at sea, but the body of Miss Eliza Carr was not found until June 4th, when it was discovered amongst the tangle or sea weed near the place where the accident happened. Miss Donkin was about 20 years of age, and Miss Carr 25 years of age. To add to the anguish of the moment, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were spectators of the heart-rending scene from the beach.

1829 (*June 1*).—The royal assent was given to “An act for establishing a ferry across the river Tyne, between North Shields, in the county of Northumberland, and South Shields, in the county of Durham, and for opening and making proper roads, avenues, ways, and passages to communicate therewith,” The roads and gangways being completed, the ferry was opened by two large steam boats in July 1830. Previous to this time, many lives had been lost in consequence of the upsetting of the small sculler boats. A suspension bridge across the river Tyne between North Shields and South Shields had been projected. *See February 23d, 1825, page 183.*

The same day the royal assent was given to “An act for building a bridge over the river Wansbeck, at the town of Morpeth, in the county of Northumberland.”

June 8.—Died, at Hexham, Mr. Joseph Dawson, aged 101 years. He went about till within a short period of his death.

June 9.—The foundation stone of an intended bridge over the river Tees, at Whorlton, was laid by Miss Headlam, daughter of the venerable archdeacon of Richmondshire, immediately after which a speech was made by that gentleman, who was loudly cheered by a vast concourse of people who had assembled from all parts of the adjacent country. The ladies after this retired and partook of a cold collation; and the gentlemen were entertained by the Rev. J. Potts, and an excellent dinner and tea was provided for the parishioners by Mrs. Harrison, of Stubb House. The Barnardcastle subscription band attended on the occasion. This building was entirely carried away by a flood on the 13th of October. 1829, *which see.*

The same day a small neat Methodist chapel was opened at Aycliffe, near Darlington, sermons were preached on the occasion by the Rev. Thomas Pennock, of Durham, and by the Rev. William Towers, of Darlington, after which collections were made in aid of the funds of the chapel.

June 14.—About twelve o'clock, three boys who had bathed opposite the last breakwater, next to Tynemouth, on the Low Light shore, North Shields, and had just got on their clothes again, heard a crackling noise above their heads. Two of them went to one side, the third unfortunately ran forward into the sea, but was overtaken by a large mass of clay which fell from the top of the bank and buried him under it. Two hours elapsed before he was dug out, when he was quite dead and his body dreadfully mangled. He was 14 years of age, and the son of Mr. Henry Dawson, mate of the ship Doncaster. A man who was swimming in front of the spot had a narrow escape, as part of the mass of clay fell within three or four yards of him.

June 15.—A young man named William Taylor, apprentice to Mr. John Forsyth, of Durham, slater, having been sent to assist in making certain repairs in the roof of the Cathedral, fell from a height of 78 feet upon the flags, in the Chapel of the Nine Altars, and wonderful to relate, received only trifling injury.

June 17.—During a thunder storm that passed over Newcastle,

a new unoccupied house at the Westgate, belonging to Mr. Bur-nup, was struck by the lightning, and a part of the roof fronting the turnpike, and one of the chimneys were thrown down. The whole of the floors in the house were also injured, and other damage done. Such was the force of the electric fluid that the slates were carried completely into the air; happily no person was injured.

1829 (*June 18*).—Died, at Easington-lane, in the county of Durham, Rosetta Coats, aged 101 years.

June 25.—A new Catholic chapel in Berwick was opened. The Rev. Mr. Birdsall, pastor of the congregation, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Gillow, of North Shields, performed the service; the latter gentleman delivered an address of considerable length, explanatory of the faith of the church. The musical part of the service was most efficiently sustained by several professional vocalists from Newcastle. Mrs. Hammond presiding at the organ. The public were admitted by tickets, 5s. each.

June 25.—Sunderland was visited by a very heavy thunder storm, the peals were tremendously loud, and the lightning remarkably frequent and vivid. The same storm visited Chester-le-Street, where a hay stack, the property of the owners of Chester brewery, was struck by the electric fluid, which entered at the roof and passed through the stack to the ground, setting it on fire. The flames were speedily extinguished, when it was found that a hole about three inches in diameter, extended from the top to the bottom of the stack. A man who had just crossed the river Wear, near Cocken, was knocked down by the lightning the same day, but he fortunately received no material injury. At Hurworth-upon-Tees, the electric fluid descended upon the house occupied by Mr. Charles Gascoigne, grocer, splitting the shop door, and knocking down his infant child who was near the same. The servant, who, at the time, was engaged up stairs in making a bed, was thrown on the floor, taken up insensible, and completely blackened by the action of the lightning. Medical aid was promptly obtained, and, after two hours of unwearied perseverance on the part of Mr. Walker, surgeon, of Hurworth, she was restored to life. Three houses at Lay Gate, near South Shields, were also struck by the lightning; one of them inhabited by Mr. Gledstone, sustained considerable damage, and Mrs. G. was thrown down and much burnt, from the effects of which she continued some time dangerously ill.

June 25.—An explosion of inflammable air took place in the Dorothea Pit, Newbottle colliery, the property of Lord Durham, whereby Robert Gardener lost his life. Only another man was in the mine at the time the accident happened, who escaped with very little injury. After the first alarm had subsided, Mr. John Harrison, the head resident viewer for the colliery, accompanied by five or six assistants, descended the shaft in order to search for Gardener; but when they had proceeded some distance into the workings, another explosion occurred. Mr. H. had his head cut in several places, and his hands were rather severely burnt, but the

rest of the men were very little injured. No particular account can be given of the cause which led to this unfortunate accident, as the party with whom it originated paid the forfeit of his life. Gardener's body, it was thought probable, might never be found, as during the first twenty-four hours explosions took place every one or two hours, which convinced the most scientific colliery viewers in the neighbourhood that the mine was on fire, and in consequence the pit was closed up so as to exclude the air. It was also found necessary to cease working another pit called the Margaret, which communicated with the Dorothea.

1829 (*June 29*).—The foundation stone of a bridge of one arch, over that dangerous ford in the river Derwent, between Greenhead and Edmond-byers, was laid by Nicholas Burnett, esq., of Black Hedley, to whom the residents in the more immediate neighbourhood, as well as the public generally, were much indebted for accomplishing by his praiseworthy exertions so desirable an improvement.

Same day, a little before twelve o'clock at night, flames were observed to issue from the workshop of Mr. Swanson, glass-cutter, Hillgate, Gateshead. By strenuous exertions, and a fortunate access to water, the fire was speedily got under, otherwise the consequences might have been truly awful, as the premises were immediately adjoining the oil mill of Messrs. John Raine and Company, some machinery belonging to which passed through the wall into the place where the fire originated, and produced the motion by which the glass-cutters worked their lathes. The fire was supposed to be the work of incendiaries, as no fire had been used by Mr. Swanson for upwards of two months before, and all was safe when he left that evening. The loss of glass, &c., was very considerable.

June.—In the course of some operations carrying on in the grounds at Tynemouth castle, some curious remains of antiquity were found. In digging a tank near the old guard-house, between the governor's house and the store-house, a brown group of grotesque figures were found of very great antiquity. And in making a drain under the foot-path, on the south side of the abbey yard, and near to the wall, a number of paving bricks and some coins were found. The bricks were of different colours, as brown, yellow, &c., and mostly of a square form, though some were that of a rectangular triangle. One of the coins was a modern one of Charles I., in copper.

July 2.—At a meeting of the mayor, aldermen, and common council of Newcastle, it was resolved unanimously to subscribe twenty pounds towards the Eldon Testimonial (that being the highest sum allowed by the advertisement) “to manifest the deep and grateful sense they entertain of the eminent services of John, earl of Eldon, throughout a long and laborious public life.” A committee of noblemen and gentlemen had been nominated to conduct a subscription for the purpose of presenting to Lord Eldon a lasting testimonial for his eminent services during his long and laborious public life. It was understood to be the wish of his lord-

ship that the money subscribed for the Eldon Testimonial should be applied to the establishment of six scholarships in University College, Oxford, to be called "The Eldon Scholarships." The subscriptions amounted to several thousand pounds. The corporation of Bristol voted the freedom of that city to the earl of Eldon, "as a token of respect and admiration of his truly staunch and loyal opposition to the measures of ministers to subvert and break in upon the constitutional settlement of 1688."

1829 (*July 7*).—Died, in the poor-house at Sunderland, Thomas Thompson, aged 102 years.

July 23.—As the brewer of Mr. William Robson, Bee Hive, Head of the Side, opposite the west end of St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, was standing at the door of the brew-house, the ground suddenly gave way beneath him, and but for the timely interference of his assistant, he would have been precipitated into a well 32 feet in depth, of the previous existence of which no person had the least knowledge.

July 24.—The neighbourhood of Haydon-bridge was visited by a tremendous storm. The lightning was awfully vivid, and continued without intermission from three o'clock in the afternoon till near eight o'clock. The rain descended in torrents for upwards of three hours. Langley-burn rose to a fearful height. The new bridges at Langley castle and Gee's Wood, (near Haydon-bridge) over which the new Alston road passed were entirely swept away, with the new wall or quay erected at a great expense, for widening the road in the Esp Hill Cleugh. The bridge at the east end of Haydon-bridge was covered with water to a great depth, the battlements were thrown down, and the turnpike road on the west side much damaged. The Post-office and several cottages near it were completely inundated, and the poor inhabitants sustained a severe loss. The lightning struck the wooden ventilator on the top of the highest chimney of Langley-smelt mills, and tore off several of the planks. At Hexham the storm continued from about five o'clock until a late hour at night. The rain fell in torrents, and the lightning and thunder were awful and terrific. Much injury was done by the rivulet called Cockshaw-burn, swelling to a tremendous height, and completely inundating the houses within its vicinity, carrying away a bridge and doing much other damage. The same night the rain fell in torrents at Newcastle, accompanied with lightning, and the next morning the river Tyne presented an awful appearance; quantities of hay and wood were brought down by the fresh, and so powerful was the current, that all the steam boats then lying on the south side of the Tyne, and several ships broke from their moorings, and were with difficulty secured again. The storm was very general throughout the county of Northumberland.

July 26.—His royal highness the duke de Chartres and suite arrived at Newcastle on the evening of this day (Sunday) from Edinburgh. His royal highness was abroad as early as seven o'clock the next morning, taking a survey of the town. Isaac Cookson, jun., esq., the French vice-consul, waited upon the duke, and

accompanied him to the Guildhall, the Mansion-house, and other public places, after which his royal highness took his departure for Sunderland, whither he was accompanied by Mr. Cookson, having previously descended one of the coal pits in the neighbourhood, the interior of which he examined with much attention. The steam engine being one of 220 horses' power, particularly arrested the attention of his royal highness. At Sunderland he examined the bridge, pier, &c.

1829 (*July 30*).—The gates leading from the street of Tynemouth, to the Prior's Haven, were for some days closed against the public, and guarded by centinels, who refused a passage to all who were not going to bathe in Mrs. Spurrier's baths. This exclusion, took place in consequence of the owners of the common bathing machines and boats having declined to pay the acknowledgment, or rent, demanded by the Board of Ordnance. The passage was re-opened on their agreeing to the terms demanded, which were ten shillings and sixpence each.

July 31.—Died, at Abingdon, Sir John Hullock, knt., one of the barons of the Exchequer. This distinguished lawyer was born in the year 1764, at Barnardcastle, in the county of Durham. In early life Mr. Hullock entered of Gray's Inn, and was in due time called to the bar, at which he practised upwards of twenty years, with the reputation of being one of the soundest lawyers in Westminster Hall. He does not appear to have had much practice, until after the publication of his work on the Law of Costs; this brought him into notice, and he rose by degrees to fill the second place amongst the counsel on the northern circuit. In the year 1816 Mr. Hullock was promoted to the rank of sergeant at law. On the resignation of Mr. Baron Wood in the year 1823, Mr. Sergeant Hullock was promoted to the office of one of the barons of the Court of Exchequer. As a judge, for integrity, sagacity, and knowledge combined, he has not left his superior. Mr. Baron Hullock had arrived at Abingdon, as one of the judges of assize of the Oxford circuit, on Saturday 25th of July. On the following day he attended divine service at St. Helen's church in that town, in apparently good health; but in the course of that night he experienced a violent attack of cholera morbus. Dr. Tomkins, a physician, was immediately called in, who perceiving the serious nature of the attack, suggested that a physician of Oxford should be sent for. Dr. Ogle returned with the messenger, and, in consultation with Dr. Tomkins, suggested such remedies as, from their effects, gave them reason to hope that his lordship would be able partly to resume his official duties. The complaint, however, returned with increased violence during the night of Wednesday, in consequence of which, Dr. Ogle was again summoned to Abingdon, and Dr. Turner, of London, the baron's family physician, was also sent for and arrived with unusual dispatch. During the whole of Thursday the greatest apprehensions were entertained for his lordship's life, and he lingered till the following evening, when he expired. On the 21st of August his lordship's remains reached Barnardcastle,

and were deposited in the family vault. A numerous concourse had assembled to view the procession, who all seemed deeply sensible of the loss that had been sustained by his death. The poor of his native town, where he generally resided during the summer months, have great cause to remember him, for to them he was a liberal benefactor. A number of aged women, who had subsisted chiefly by his charity, voluntarily followed his empty carriage, while it was proceeding to his house, after the funeral, weeping and deploring in the most affecting manner, the death of their benefactor. An excellent funeral sermon was preached in the church on the Sunday following by the Rev. John Davison, from 2d Samuel, chap. iii. ver. 38, "Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel," Mr. Hullock was recorder of Berwick, which he resigned, and was succeeded in the year 1810 by Christopher Cookson, esq., who is also recorder of Newcastle. *See September 29th*, 1829. Mr. Hullock published "*The Law of Costs*," 8vo. 1792; also "*The Law of Costs in Civil Actions and Proceedings*," 8vo. 1796; and another edition in 2 vols. 1810. His lordship had been many years married. His lady survived him.

1829 (*Aug 2*).—A fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mrs. Margaret Bulmer, pawn-broker, Bank Top, South Shields. The flames had reached the roof of the house before they were discovered, and burnt with alarming fury, but the speedy arrival of the North and South Shields fire engines, and a good supply of water kept the fire from extending to the adjoining premises. The whole of the upper parts of the house which were filled with feather beds and other pledged articles were entirely consumed. The stock and furniture were insured for £1,400, but the premises were not insured. Many things saved from the flames were purloined by the evil disposed, who too frequently assemble for the purpose of plunder on these occasions.

August 9.—The church at Belford, after having undergone considerable enlargement, was re-opened for divine service, and an eloquent and impressive sermon was preached by the Rev. W. N. Darnell, prebendary of Durham, and rector of Norham, from 2d Chronicles, xxixth chap. 31st verse, and a collection made for the benefit of the Sunday school of the parish.

August 10.—The foundation stone of a bridge over the river Wansbeck, at High Ford, near Mitford, was laid by B. Mitford, esq., lord of the manor, in the presence of a large concourse of spectators, with due form, amidst music, the firing of cannon and the ringing of bells. Mr. Moor, of High House, as representative of William Ord, esq., lord of the manor on the opposite side of the river, assisted in the ceremony. A dance on the banks of the river followed, and afterwards thirty-two gentlemen dined at the Plough inn, at Mitford, Mr. Mitford in the chair. Some very appropriate speeches were delivered, and the afternoon was spent with great conviviality.

August 19.—A meeting was held in the lecture-room of the

Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, for the purpose of establishing a society to be called "The Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle upon Tyne." The meeting was attended by Sir John Trevelyan, bart., Walter Calverley Trevelyan, William Orde, Prideaux John Selby, William Burrell, Dixon Dixon, George Townsend Fox, and John Adamson, esqrs.; Rev. William Turner, Mr. Emerson Charnley, Mr. Winch, Mr. William Hewitson, &c., &c. The chair was taken by Dixon Dixon, esq., and Mr. Adamson announced that he had received a letter from the venerable Archdeacon Singleton, stating that his grace the duke of Northumberland would be very happy to join the gentlemen of the country in so laudable a purpose. Mr. G. T. Fox made a similar announcement on the part of the lord bishop of Durham, and intimated his lordship's intention to have been present at the meeting, had he not been prevented by his attendance on his majesty's justices of assize. His lordship would give directions to his several agents to furnish specimens in their various departments. The establishment of the society was then proposed by Sir John Trevelyan, bart., and seconded by P. J. Selby, esq., It was resolved to solicit his grace the duke of Northumberland to become the patron of the society, and the lord bishop of Durham to accept the office of president. The society to have eight vice-presidents and a committee, and its meetings to take place on the third Tuesday of every month. William Orde., esq., proposed the thanks of the meeting to Dixon Dixon, esq., for his conduct in the chair, and begged to express his great satisfaction at the establishment of the society, and his conviction of the beneficial effects which would result from it to the country. The thanks of the meeting were also given to John Adamson, esq., for his valuable exertions in the formation of the society. The first meeting of this society took place on the 15th of September, when an excellent introductory address was delivered by the Rev. William Turner.

1829 (*Aug.* 20).—As the marquis and marchioness of Londonderry were driving in a curricule two high-spirited horses down a hill close to Wynyard Park, the pole of the carriage broke, and the curricule fell, when the horses feeling the splinter-bars on their hind legs, began to kick out most furiously against the splash board of the carriage, which pressed on their hind quarters. The carriage was dragged some distance in this way. The marquis, by singular good fortune, guided and pulled the near horse into a ditch, when he fell on his side under the carriage, and broke his hind leg. The off-horse became so entangled, that he also fell while kicking out. Lady Londonderry sat upon the seat of the curricule during the frightful kicking of the horses, and when the near horse fell, she leapt out into the ditch. Her husband, seeing her ladyship safe, sprung out on the other side. The noble pair only suffered by several severe bruises. The fine horse was shot on the spot.

August 22.—Mr. Justice Bayley and Mr. Justice Littledale, judges of assize left Newcastle for Carlisle on the morning of the above day (Saturday) and, in consequence, no assize Sunday was

observed at Newcastle, a circumstance which had not occurred there, it was believed, since the year 1745, when the ceremony was first observed.

1829 (*Aug. 22*).—Mr. Andrew Henderson, of Newcastle, upholsterer, was drowned whilst bathing on the sands between Tynemouth and Cullercoats. Mr. Henderson and family were residing at Tynemouth, and he had up to that morning bathed in the Haven. He had not been long in the sea till, although a good swimmer, it was apparent that he was overcome by a strong current, which sets out to sea at that place, and before aid could be procured, he was unfortunately drowned. His body was taken to the baths, and every exertion made to restore animation, but without success. Mr. Henderson was about thirty-two years of age, and was much respected. He was interred at the Ballast Hills' burial ground at Newcastle. Many lives have been lost whilst bathing on these sands, as the current which sets out is so very powerful, that it is almost impossible to stem it. This ought to be generally known.

August 27.—Died, in Carpenter Street, South Shields, Ann Musgrave, spinster, aged 100 years.

August 30.—A large whale was seen floating near the Fern Islands, on the coast of Northumberland. Some boats sailed out and towed it ashore. It measured in length 58 feet, and was sold for £45. When found it was quite dead.

August 31.—At a meeting of the coal trade at Newcastle, it was determined to re-establish the vends, or regulations for apportioning each colliery's sale on the rivers Tyne and Wear, and they commenced accordingly on the following morning.

September 15.—There was launched from the building-yard of Messrs. Straker and Co., at South Shields, a very beautiful new ship called the *Isabella*, of nearly 300 tons. There was a most numerous and respectable assemblage of persons from Newcastle, North Shields, and the neighbourhood, not only for the purpose of seeing the launch, but to witness the operation and power of Mr. George Straker's newly-invented patent windlass, which not only equalled, but surpassed the most sanguine expectations that had been formed of it. Its relative powers were tried by putting six men at the windlass to heave an anchor of 13 cwt. in the ordinary way, which they performed with some difficulty. It was then lowered down and hove up again with the *improved windlass* by the power of one man and a boy with comparative ease. The anchor was again lowered down and an additional weight suspended, which was equal to about 26 cwt., when eight men and boys were again put to the windlass in the ordinary way, who were not able to get a single square; two of the men were then put to the improved purchase, and immediately hove up the weight of two anchors without difficulty. The superiority of Mr. Straker's windlass was allowed to be one of the greatest improvements in that important part of naval architecture.

September 19.—A whale of the finner species was found dead on the shore, about two miles north of Berwick. It was nearly 36

feet in length, and 24 feet at its greatest circumference. It was claimed by the corporation, and sold for £17. 2s. 6d. Six cormorants were found in its stomach, and one in the throat which was supposed to have choaked it. When viewed from the bank under which it lay, the resemblance to a boat, with the keel upwards, was so exact and striking, that the comparison was made by every one of its numerous visitors; and Wilkie, the celebrated painter, who was one of them, is said to have remarked, that a boat-builder might read to himself a good lesson from this mighty monster of the deep.

1829 (*Sept. 29*).—Robert Hopper Williamson, esq., resigned the recordership of Newcastle, which he had held with the highest honour for a period of thirty years. On the 5th of October, being the first Monday after the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, at the election of the mayor and other officers of the corporation of Newcastle, Christopher Cookson, esq., barrister at law, was elected recorder of that town. Mr. Cookson is also recorder of Berwick, having been, in March, 1810, unanimously elected recorder of that town on the resignation of John Hullock, esq. *See July 31st, 1829.*

October 10.—A petrified or fossil tree was found in the stone quarry at Wide-open, near Gosforth, about five miles from Newcastle, at a depth of 42 feet from the surface, and 6 feet from the bed of the stone. It was 72 feet in length, and 4 feet 9 inches in girth at the lower extremity. Its horizontal exceeded its vertical diameter in the proportion of 17 to 10. Its position was nearly horizontal, the knots, &c., retained their original appearance; it was partially hollow and crystalized; its longitudinal separations were precisely those of wood rent by powerful external pressure. The fossil stem of a tree was found at the depth of 48 fathoms above the coal in the workings of Killingworth colliery, near Newcastle, in September, 1830. A representation of this tree is given in the first volume of the “Transactions of the Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle.” Another fossil tree was found in a quarry at Heworth, near Newcastle. Other fine specimens of similar fossil remains have been found in the quarries on the sea coast at Cresswell, in Northumberland; one of which is preserved in the conservatory at Cresswell House. Its dimensions are, viz.:—5 feet in height, girth at the top 4 feet 10 inches, at the middle 5 feet 10½ inches, near the bottom 5 feet 7 inches, and at the bottom 7 feet 6 inches. This was drawn and etched by Mr. Thomas Sopwith, of Newcastle, for the Rev. John Hodgson’s History of Northumberland.

October 13.—During the night, there was a strong gale accompanied by heavy and long-continued rain. The river Tees was swollen to a height not exceeded within the memory of the oldest inhabitant of Barnardcastle. The river Tyne was alarmingly swollen on the following morning, overflowing all the low lands in its vicinity, and penetrating the cellars on the Quay-side and the Close, in Newcastle, occasioning considerable loss of goods and liquors. A great many sheep and a few cattle were on the island called the King’s-meadows, in the river Tyne, at the commencement, on the

Tuesday evening, but were fortunately got off during the night and the next morning. About four o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, a valuable horse belonging to Messrs. Robert and William Wheatley, cart-owners, Newcastle, was lost by falling over the Quay, opposite to the Custom-house, while attached to a cart. The tide at this time had extended considerably over the Quay, and to keep some iron (in progress of delivery) dry, the cart had been backed close to the vessel, which either from the force of the current, or the pressure of the cart, (containing 22 bundles of hoop iron) sheered off from the Quay, and the cart and the horse were precipitated into the river between the Quay and the vessel, where the poor animal struggled about ten minutes, during which time every effort was made for his release, but without success. The whole of the scaffolding put up for the landing of stones to be used in erecting the south abutments of Scotswood bridge, over the Tyne, was carried away, and the timber dispersed over the adjacent fields. Some pieces reached Swalwell, Dunston, &c., and even got as far inland as the turnpike road on that side of the water. The communicating gangway from the north pier to the piling scaffold, was also entirely driven down, and the scaffolding itself so materially damaged and shifted from its level, that the whole was obliged to be taken down. The men employed in the erection of the bridge, had some very narrow escapes whilst engaged in picking up the floating rafters. The flood made a breach in every part of the line of road reaching from the south pier to Blaydon, being all embankment and not finished, which in that early state of the work was very considerable. Several sheep and one or two asses, were said to have floated down the Derwent, a small tributary stream running through Swalwell, but which on this occasion, rushed down with astonishing strength and rapidity. By this alarming visitation, Mr. Thomas Potts, a farmer, of Newburn, lost a bay mare and a fine young horse. He was attempting to ford the river with a cart, a short way from his own residence, but the rush of water increasing at the moment, the animals were carried off their feet, and Mr. Potts thrown into the stream; his progress was fortunately stopped by the whirling of an eddy round a quay near his farm, from whence his barnman succeeded in rescuing him, though in a very exhausted condition. Some cattle belonging to Mr. Ramsay, on Derwent-haugh, were in great danger during the Wednesday—a danger that became no less imminent to the men employed to turn them off, before they could be brought to swim for that purpose. A keel that was taking the turn of the river, between Stella and Lemington, was driven with great force on the eastern bank; and most of the houses on both sides of the river, had their lower apartments flooded, and parts of their furniture either damaged or destroyed: a desk-bed was caught by a keelman named Curry, at Blaydon. An old woman was said to have been drowned near Wylam. There had not been so high a flood in the Tyne since December 30th, 1815, though its effects were comparatively trifling. As stated before,

the river Tees rose to an unusual height; at Barnardcastle it flooded many of the houses, particularly at Bridgegate, where during the night it swept away furniture, clothes, &c., from the inhabitants. The new bridge, building across the river at Whorlton, was entirely carried away, to the ruin of the unfortunate builders. *See June 9th, 1829.* At Hexham, the whole of Tyne-green was overflown, and the lower rooms of many houses were under water. But deplorable as the effects of the storm were inland, they were trivial compared with the devastation on the coast. During the Tuesday, above one hundred and fifty light colliers had arrived safely in Sunderland harbour, and several sailed again laden, with a fine north-west wind and a smooth sea; but during the night, the wind having shifted to the north east, a most tremendous sea came on, and morning presented one of the most awful spectacles witnessed there for many years. Day-light discovered four vessels lying on their broadsides on the south rocks, and by three o'clock P. M., there were fifteen vessels on shore and wrecked between the south pier and Hendon. About four o'clock, the Eleanor, of Monkwearmouth, which had sailed the day before for the northward, in putting back, sunk off the mouth of the harbour, and all on board perished, consisting of a father and son named Hills, and two seamen, in sight of some thousands of spectators, unable to render the slightest assistance. The brig Thos. Fenwick, of Shields, sunk in deep water off Sunderland, after having been abandoned by her crew. The William and Clio, of Sunderland, with four other vessels, went on shore on Stranton sands, near Hartlepool. The sea was heavier at Blyth, than had been known for upwards of twenty years; however, it did but partial damage, although at one time, the houses at Cowpen quay were nearly inundated by the dyke giving way. A small vessel, laden with corn, &c., struck on the rocks near Marsden, between Shields and Sunderland; she went to pieces, and all on board consisting of eight persons perished. They were seen to suffer by some pilots, who were not able to render them any assistance.

1829(*Oct. 14.*).—The new church in St. John Street, Bishopwearmouth, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham, with the usual formalities. The hon. and rev. Dr. Wellesley preached the consecration sermon from Mark, xvith. chap., 15th ver. Immediately after the above ceremony, the bishop consecrated a plot of ground that had been added to the burial ground adjoining the National school, Bishopwearmouth.

October 16.—The commissioners for enquiring concerning public charities arrived in Newcastle, and commenced their labours at the Queen's Head inn, in Pilgrim-street. Invitation by public advertisement had been previously given to all persons who could communicate information on the subjects of their enquiry.

October 16.—About four o'clock on the morning, an alarming fire broke out in the stack-yard of Low Angerton East Farm, near Morpeth, occupied by Mr. William Lumsden, which in a short time completely destroyed ten stacks of wheat, eight of oats, one

of barley, and three of hay, the whole crop of the farm ! This calamity was supposed to have originated in a stack of old-land hay which appeared to be much heated, and was observed smoking very much the preceding day. The fire was discovered by people at a distance, who hastened to the spot and found the family asleep. Within an hour every stack in the yard was in flames, together with the horse-house and outside works of the thrashing machine, and the dreadful appearance of the fire at this time threatened the destruction of the whole of the premises ; but by the great exertions of the neighbours, the dwelling-house and other buildings were preserved. Great damage was also sustained by the hasty removal of the furniture, &c., no part of the property was insured. The alarm created in the neighbourhood was very great, and people came to assist from all quarters, many of whom continued carrying water and otherwise assisting, from five o'clock on the morning till eight o'clock at night.

1829 (*Oct. 17*).—The foundation of the Music-hall in Blackett-street, Newcastle, was laid. It is the property of Mr. Richard Grainger, builder.



October 18.—This day (Sunday) the first interment took place at the “WESTGATE HILL GENERAL CEMETERY.” The grave which was about ten feet deep, was for the mortal remains of Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Joseph Angus, who died on the 13th at Forth-terrace, in Newcastle. The Rev. Richard Pengilly, (minister of the Baptist chapel, on the Tuthill-stairs, Newcastle,) addressed the numerous spectators on the solemn occasion of their having been brought together, and also on the necessity of purchasing this spot of ground as a public depository of the dead. On the conclusion of Mr. Pengilly’s address, the Rev. G. Sample, closed the service with prayer. The ground which had been purchased of John Hodgson, esq., of Elswick, upon very liberal terms, consists of three acres of land at the Westgate, being the angle formed by the Carlisle-road, and Elswick-lane. This cemetery is laid out in an ornamental manner after the models of the celebrated *Cimetière du pere la Chaise*, at Paris, and the lately formed cemeteries at Manchester and Liverpool. In this place of interment, there are

no restrictions as to rites and ceremonies, these are left entirely to the pleasure of surviving friends. The ground had not been *consecrated* previous to interment, as the dissenters, with whom this new burial ground originated, consider the ceremony as quite unnecessary. The preceding wood cut shews the ground plan.

1829 (*Oct. 19*).—The new chapel at Ferryhill, in the county of Durham, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham, and called St. Luke's chapel. His lordship arrived at eleven o'clock, at the house of Mr. Arrowsmith, whence, after having robed, he proceeded attended by his chaplains, &c., to perform the solemn ceremony, at the conclusion of which, prayers were read by the rev. Thomas Ebdon, vicar of Merrington, in whose parish the chapel is situated. The right rev. prelate then preached an excellent sermon from Matthew, chap. xiii. verses 16 and 17. After the ceremony was over, the bishop proceeded to Mainsforth, the hospitable mansion of Robert Surtees, esq., where an elegant cold collation awaited his lordship's arrival. This chapel, which is a plain structure, was built by subscriptions from the bishop of Durham, the rev. the dean of Durham, the dean and chapter of Durham, Lord Crewe's trustees, the district diocesan committee for building and enlarging churches and chapels, the incorporated society for the enlargement and building of churches and chapels, Sir Robert Eden, and a few smaller subscriptions. There is no endowment nor emolument of any sort. The curate of Merrington does duty and preaches here every Sunday evening. The design of the chapel was by Bonomi. There was an ancient chapel at Ferryhill, before the dissolution, dedicated to St. Ebbe, and a cell of two or three monks from Durham. They had a swannery where the morass now is, betwixt Thrislington, Ferrywood, and Mainsforth.

October 24.—The elegant new church at the Barras-bridge, Newcastle, having been brought to its height, the last corner stone was laid by John Clayton, esq., accompanied by Mr. John Dobson, the architect, and some friends, on which occasion the bells of St. Andrew's church, rang several merry peals. The foundation stone of this chapel was laid on the 27th of May, 1828, without a public ceremony. For the consecration of this chapel, *See October 19th, 1830*.

October 24 and 26.—The skeleton remains of two human bodies were found in a part of the premises in Low Friar-street, Newcastle, occupied by Mr. Jonathan Priestman, tanner, by the workmen employed in forming recesses for some new pits in the back part of his tan-yard. They were embedded in a stratum of clay, which had the usual loamy covering, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the surface. When discovered all their parts were connected, but on exposure to the air a considerable portion crumbled and separated into atoms. Not a vestige of any thing like a coffin was found. Vulgar opinion immediately declared them to be the bodies of murdered persons, but this is extremely unlikely, for they both lay east and west in the manner of the present mode of interment, and

in the same straight position. The contiguity of this place to the monastery of the Black-friars, confirms the supposition that it had been a burial place in monastic times.

1829 (*Oct. 27*).—The Stockton and Darlington railway company, opened the new branch of the railroad, from Darlington to Croft. A liberal invitation to the neighbouring gentlemen having been given by the company, numerous coaches drawn by one horse each and crowded with thirty to fifty passengers on each coach, as well as carrying many appropriate banners had an imposing effect. These coaches were followed by a train of waggons, laden with coals from every different mine, for the supply of the North Riding of Yorkshire. The procession was truly interesting.

November 4.—A fire broke out at the Red-house farm, near Monkwearmouth, occupied by Mr. Rennison, which in a short time consumed the whole of the outbuildings, and a great quantity of corn.

November 9.—The new road formed by the marquis of Londonderry, from Seaham harbour, was opened. It is nearly a mile and a half in length, and joins the Sunderland and Stockton turnpike road immediately opposite the Mill inn, near to Seaham-lodge. It affords an easy access to the new town and harbour.

November 18.—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Ann Drybourg, aged 100 years.

November 19.—A meeting of a number of the principal merchants, &c., of Newcastle, was held at the Turk's Head inn, Geo. Shadforth, esq., mayor, in the chair, to consider of the necessary preliminary arrangements best calculated to promote the formation of an East India Association in that town. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Buckingham, at considerable length, who concluded by recommending that a requisition signed by the company present, should be presented to the mayor, requesting him to call a public meeting at his convenience, in order to consider the propriety of forming an association, which might report the sense of this part of the country on the important question of renewing the East India Company's charter, when it came to be agitated in the ensuing session of parliament. A requisition to that effect, on the motion of James Losh, esq., seconded by George Forster, esq., was then adopted and most respectably signed. The mayor appointed the meeting to be held in the Guildhall, on Tuesday the first of December. A meeting took place accordingly, which was attended by a numerous body of the most respectable merchants of the town and neighbourhood, George Shadforth, esq., mayor, in the chair. James Losh, esq., in a speech of great length and brilliancy, pointed out the advantages that would accrue to this country if a free trade with India and China were permitted. He deprecated the policy of the East India Company, who not only did not put a check upon the barbarous superstitions of the Hindoos, but actually made a profit of them, and far from labouring to enlighten and educate the vast population under their controul, from a narrow-minded jealousy, conceived that their empire was only to

be perpetuated by keeping them in ignorance. Mr. Buckingham also addressed the meeting, as did also Mr. William Armstrong. The various resolutions were then proposed and seconded, and an association was formed under the title of "The Newcastle East India Association." The fifty-nine gentlemen who signed the requisition to the mayor for convening the meeting, constituted the committee.

1829 (*Nov. 21*).—A meeting of the inhabitants of North and South Shields, was held at the George Tavern, North Shields, Robert Spence, esq., in the chair, when an association was formed to be called, "The Shields East India Association," for the purpose of opposing the renewal of the East India Company's charter.

November 22.—Died, at his house on the New-road, Newcastle, Mr. Thomas Coulthard, brewer, aged 50 years. He was unquestionably the heaviest man in the district, and his coffin was in all probability the largest ever seen in Newcastle. It was made in the workshop of Mr. Thomas Sopwith, and its stupendous dimensions excited great astonishment in the numerous persons who were attracted by curiosity to see it. It contained upwards of 100 square feet of oak, and in bulk amounted to about 40 cubic feet. The external dimensions were the more extraordinary, as not including space for any inner shell or leaden coffin, but barely for the body, they were as follows:—Length 6 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, breadth at the head 2 feet 11 inches, ditto at the shoulders 3 feet 5 inches, ditto at the feet, 2 feet 8 inches, depth 2 feet $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. He was interred in the burial ground of St. Ann's chapel, on the 24th of November; an immense concourse of people assembled to witness the ceremony.

November 26.—A large temporary building erected in the Nuns' field, Newcastle, was opened by Mr. Ducrow, as an amphitheatre, to which his most chaste and classical performances and the wonderful feats of his beautiful stud of horses, attracted great crowds every evening.

Same day, a meeting of the principal gentry of Newcastle, and Northumberland, was held in the Assembly-rooms, Newcastle, when it was determined to establish a club on the plan of the club houses in London, to be called "The Northern Counties Club."

December 2.—A public meeting, to form an East India Association, was held in the Assembly-rooms, Sunderland, in pursuance of a requisition to the magistrates, signed by sixty-five ship-owners and merchants of Sunderland. Bernard Ogden, esq., was called to the chair, and several gentlemen having addressed the meeting, which was very numerously attended, an East India Association was unanimously agreed to. A vote of thanks was carried by acclamation to Mr. Buckingham, and that gentleman returned thanks in a very animated speech, which was received with great applause.

December 3.—A numerous and highly respectable meeting of the subscribers and friends to the "WESTGATE HILL CEMETERY," was held at the Crown and Thistle inn, Newcastle, James Losh, esq., in the chair. A report of the proceedings of the building

committee was read by the secretary, the Rev. R. Pengilly, by which it appeared that sufficient progress had been made in the work to enable the trustees to open the ground as a place of interment. Mr. Bruce moved a resolution approving of the conduct of the building committee, which being seconded by Mr. Beaumont, was carried unanimously. Mr. John Fenwick, in moving the appointment of an additional trustee, took occasion to congratulate the meeting on Newcastle now possessing a cemetery, which was not only highly creditable to the town, but which would have a most humanizing effect on the population. He thought that the remainder of the purchase money of the ground should be immediately paid, that the place should be lighted with gas—it was admirably capable of this sort of defence, which he considered as being more secure and more to be relied on than the ample walls and formidable railing that already surrounded the ground, that the chapel and sexton's house should be erected, and that the land tax should be redeemed. He remarked that this was important, as many gentlemen had been induced to increase their shares with a view to their having the power to express an opinion of the fitness or unfitness of any candidate to represent the county of Northumberland in parliament, and it was desirable that the voters in right of this ground should have the stumbling block of the land tax schedule taken out of their way, whenever they should come to the poll. He thought that £1,000. more would fully accomplish all those purposes, and as many of the friends of the measure had objected to the trustees borrowing money, if any gentlemen would increase the number of their shares the money might at once be raised without resorting to that expedient. He concluded by urging on the gentlemen present to enlarge the number of the shares taken by them. £400. was subscribed in the room, to which a considerable sum was afterwards added.

1829 (*Dec. 3*).—An unfortunate accident happened at Willington colliery, near Newcastle, by which four men lost their lives by an explosion accompanied by a rush of water from some old workings.



THE clock face on the north side of St. Nicholas' church, facing the wheat market, in Newcastle, was at five o'clock in the evening of December 5th, first lighted with gas. It is a simple but ingenious piece of mechanism, by which a semi-transparent plate of glass, forming the dial, is illuminated at any given time. The wheel used for this purpose runs in the hour wheel of the clock, but having twice the number of teeth that the latter

has, it by that means acquires the necessary revolution of once only in twenty-four hours; then, having as many pins attached to it (for their number is regulated at pleasure) as there are hours to elapse between the times of putting out and relighting the dial, they bear up a lever, as they revolve from hour to hour, which

keeps the cock of the gas-pipe closed ; until all of them getting past, and the point of the lever having no more pins to strike upon, it of course descends, turns the cock, and (a little gas being left ignited throughout the day, by means of a pin-hole bored through the stop cock for the purpose), there immediately becomes a full flame at any period previously calculated on. Mr. Paine, of London, is the patentee of this useful and interesting contrivance. It was executed at the expense of the corporation of Newcastle, on the public spirited conduct of which body it reflects considerable credit. It forms a very interesting object on a dark night. The dial, which is glass, is eight feet in diameter, being about two feet larger than that on the south ; the numerals are fifteen inches in length, and may be distinctly seen at a great distance. When first lighted, an immense concourse of people assembled to witness it, and the bells of the church were rung on the occasion. The ornamented initial is a view of the west door of this structure, and part of the interior.

1829 (*Dec. 8*).—During the night, as Ralph Haswell, engineman, was guarding the rope at Winter's-lane engine, on the Hetton Company's railway, he by some means slipt his foot, and came in contact with the drum on which the rope is wound, when the first turn of the rope passed over his right arm, and the next turn over his right foot. In this awful situation he had to remain for a considerable time, till at length another workman came to his assistance and stopped the engine, but not before nearly 400 fathoms of rope were wound over his arms and legs ! Fortunately the rope never passed over his head, or he must have been crushed to death. Upwards of an hour elapsed before he could be extricated, and what was astonishing he was not much hurt, excepting his right arm, which was a good deal crushed.

December 19.—About nine o'clock at night, a pitman named Joseph Gardner, was found in the centre of a large water wheel attached to the mustard manufactory, in Pandon-dean, Newcastle, in a very perilous situation. Mrs. Hedley, who resided on the premises, thinking she heard a noise in the mill, took a light and proceeded to the spot ; on asking if any one were there, a faint voice replied, " Yes, I'm in the wheel." Assistance was immediately procured, and the poor fellow was dragged out with great difficulty, through the machinery, dripping with wet, and leaving his hat and one of his shoes in the dam, which were got out the next morning. His situation was truly dangerous ; for had the wheel once turned round, which the weight of his body on either side would have effected, he must have fallen into the dam beneath, containing five or six feet depth of water, or had he remained much longer exposed to the wet and cold, it was likely he would have perished, as he was very much exhausted when found. He had been drinking at the Head of the Side, and went home to supper with a man and a woman ; they were in another house, but he could not tell where : he had had 13 or 14 shillings, but only two-pence when found. He could not tell how he got into the wheel.

1829 (*Dec.* 20).—Died, in the city of Durham, Elizabeth Maughan, aged 100 years.

December 26.—An excellently finished and beautiful vessel called the “George Green,” was launched from the dock-yard of Messrs. W. Smith and Co., of St. Peter’s, North-shore, near Newcastle, intended for the East India trade, and principally for passengers, her interior being fitted up with unusual neatness and elegance. She was built in the frigate style, and for the convenience of her passengers, the ports, which were thirteen in number on each side, had each a patent light in the centre, which hauled up for the admission of air into the cabins and lower deck; she was also fitted with a double tier of windows in the stern and quarter galleries. Her extreme length was 135 feet, and admeasured 586 register tons. Some beautifully carved work on the stern represented the armorial bearings of the gentleman whose name she bore; her cutwater was also surmounted by a bust of the same individual. She was the finest merchantman ever constructed in that port, and was considered by scientific men to equal any London-built vessel. The ceremony of naming having been performed by Frederick Green, esq., at four o’clock the vessel was launched in the most imposing style, amidst the loud cheers of the assembled spectators, and a salute of cannon. Notwithstanding the inclement season, numbers went from a considerable distance to witness the launch. This beautiful vessel was totally lost on the 30th of January, 1830, on Hasbro’ sand, on her passage from the Tyne to London. *See February* 28th, 1831.

December.—Eight new bells arrived at Sunderland, from London, for Sunderland church, two of them were a present from the rector Dr. Wellesley. They were rung for the first time on New Years’ eve, by the Gateshead union society of change ringers. The bells were justly admired for their beautiful tone. The tenor bell weighed 14 cwt.

1830 (*Jan.* 15).—A large party of the magistrates of the county of Northumberland, the high and under sheriff, several gentlemen of the bar, officers of the court, and other professional gentlemen, dined together at the Assembly Rooms in Newcastle, for the purpose of presenting to Thomas Clennell, esq., the late chairman of the county, a splendid and richly worked and ornamented silver candelabrum, on a tripod pedestal, supported on three highly ornamented feet of the Roman character. On one side, was the following inscription:—“To Thomas Clennell, of Harbottle castle, esq., from the Custos Rotulorum, and the Justices of the Peace, the Officers and Legal Practitioners of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the County of Northumberland, in Memorial of his long, zealous, and efficient Services as Chairman, 1829.” On another side was Mr. Clennell’s arms, and on the third side the arms of the county of Northumberland, with the motto, “*Libertas et Natale Solum.*” The pillar was highly enriched in the same style of ornament as the pedestal, terminating in six bracket branches and a centre light. It was presented by Charles William Bigge,

esq., who had been elected January 15th, 1829, to succeed Mr. Clennell as chairman of the county. The value of it was said to be 250 guineas. It was manufactured by Messrs. Rundell and Bridge, of London.

1830 (*Jan. 28*).—Between ten and eleven o'clock at night a most destructive fire broke out in the extensive coach-manufactory of Mr. J. L. Angas, in Angas' Court, Bigg Market, Newcastle, which entirely destroyed the same, with the greatest part of the contents even before the fire engines could arrive. The fire, which was first seen to issue from above Mr. Angas' counting-house, was not got under till near four o'clock on the following morning (Friday). The fire soon extended to the houses in the court on the side of St. John's Lane, and three of them to the bare walls were destroyed, and also several workshops in the Fighting Cocks' yard on the opposite side of the court. The immense floor-cloth manufactory of Mr. Hardcastle, which towered above the houses on the west side of St. John's Lane, also soon caught fire in the roof, but fortunately, by the exertions of the firemen and others, it was extinguished without extending downwards, or the whole square of buildings from the Nunsgate to the Assembly Rooms must have shared its fate. The windows of the houses on the west side of St. John's Lane caught fire by the heat from the burning mass on the opposite side, but by driving out the frames, and the playing of the engines upon them, they were saved from total destruction. As most of the neighbours were in bed when the fire was discovered, much distress occurred in their escape; several were in their night clothes only, though the frost was very severe. The whole of Mr. Angas' stock, with the exception of a few carriages, got out of the yard, was destroyed. His workmen lost tools to the value of 100 guineas. William Jones and his son, John Harrison, and John Wilkinson, were among the greatest sufferers. Mr. Samuel Stokoe, who had a wine and spirit cellar in St. John's Lane, received damage one way or other to the extent of nearly £300., but he was fortunately insured in the Newcastle Fire Office for £1,000. When Mr. Stokoe first arrived on the spot, he found a gang of fellows who had broken into his premises, drinking out of tubs which were filled out of the rum vat, and bottles from which they had broken the necks. He was laughed at when he attempted to stop their proceedings, and assailed with the most abusive language. One reeling wretch actually swore that he was Mr. Stokoe, and another with equal audacity personated his man! At twelve o'clock the fire had reached the wine cellar, but the Newcastle engine, and the engine from the barracks arrested the progress of the fire in Mr. Stokoe's cellar. A house at the back of the buildings on the east side of St. John's Lane, near the church, occupied by Ralph Tully, a labourer, who had a wife and six children, was almost wholly demolished, Tully saving nothing but a few old chairs. Another house about the centre of the lane on the east side, which had portions of Mr. Angas' manufactory at either end, and at the back, suffered severely, and being a numerous-tenanted dwelling, the confusion and dismay

were proportionably great. Of these tenants, George Sayers, a basket-maker, with a wife and four children (the wife about to lie in again), lost all he had ; Jolin Dixon, baker, whose wife was in a similar condition, saved only a few trifling articles ; Robert Easton, tailor, and his sister, a straw hat-maker, suffered to a great amount, in clothes, straw plait, and furniture ; Thomas Jenkins, dyer, lost all but a few clothes and part of a bed ; as likewise did Joseph Atkinson, a blacksmith, whose wife, with her two children in her arms, were in the streets above an hour almost in a state of nudity ; Andrew Mather, blacksmith, and Henry Wylie, *smoke doctor*, lost nearly all they possessed. In Angas' Court, Mr. Boyd, a supervisor of the excise, lost part of his furniture, and had a great deal broken ; his son had two leaders of his foot cut across, and when returning from Mr. Moore's, surgeon, where he got his wound dressed, stopped a man making off with his boots and two or three pairs of his shoes ; Mr. Carter, tailor, lost a feather bed and various other articles, including cloth, clothes, &c. Mr. Roberts, comedian, who lodged with Mr. Carter, had several theatrical manuscripts and books destroyed. Mr. Hogg, hatter, suffered damage to the amount of £10. in his warehouse in the Fighting Cocks' yard. Mr. Charles Wallace, joiner and cabinet-maker, whose workshop was in great danger in the same yard, had many tools, mahogany veneers, Spanish curls, &c., taken away or broken ; in all he lost not less than £35. worth of stuff. Several other individuals suffered, though in an inferior degree. None of the above mentioned persons, excepting Messrs. Angas and Stokoe were insured. It was owing to the intrepidity of Abraham Wilson, a paviour, that the pipe of one of the engines reached the roof of Mr. Hardcastle's floor-cloth manufactory. Wilson broke through the roof of a dwelling-house on the west side of St. John's Lane, and succeeded in placing a fireman upon it, so that the latter was enabled to play on the building ; but the preservation of that stupendous building was attributed to the unwearied exertions of Thomas Falcus and William Mills, two of Mr. Hardcastle's workmen, who succeeded in reaching the roof from the interior of the manufactory, and, aided by a number of their friends, and a plentiful supply of water from a large reservoir in the premises, they succeeded in checking and eventually extinguishing the flames without any very serious injury having been sustained, except in the partial destruction of that part of the roof which was actually on fire. A conflagration so direful in its consequences, had, it was supposed, never before occurred in Newcastle. The lofty and beautiful steeple of St. Nicholas' church being illuminated by the flames, had a most enchanting appearance. There was a subscription for the poor sufferers by this fire. As there had been such dreadful plundering during this calamity, the houses of various suspicious characters were afterwards searched, and several of the purloined goods were found. At the Spring Assizes, in March, Elizabeth Smith, aged 29 years, Jane Craggs, and Richard Beecher, aged 21 years, were each sentenced to be transported for 14 years, for stealing bedding, clothes, &c., at this fire.

1830 (*Feb. 23*).—An inquest was held before Edward Hemsley, esq., coroner for Newcastle, on the body of a female child about five months old, name unknown. It appeared that the child had been left about eight o'clock the preceding evening, on the outer step of a house in the Salt Entry, in the Close, near the Bridge-end, fully dressed, and having also on a lilac speckled cloak and brown beaver hat, nearly new, with a bundle containing an abundance of excellent child's clothing, worth not less than £4. on one side of it, and a basket containing food and a child's tin pot with the name Ann upon it on the other. There was also a letter found in the bundle, of which the following is a copy, viz.:—"When you get this little girl its unfurtnate mother will be no more deserted by an it inhuame father I had nothing left to suport it with oh do not forsak it and may the blesing of the alimighy showr down his choicest bleasings upon you is the Preaer of its unfurtnate Mother." It was a remarkably fine child, and when found, was suffering under violent convulsive fits, brought on by being exposed to the weather. Mr. Hosegood, surgeon, was called in, and gave it every assistance: it lingered until six o'clock the following morning, and then died. The jury returned a verdict of "*Natural Death under violent convulsive fits.*" The child's name was supposed to be Ann Wilkinson.

March 8.—The opening out of an Egyptian mummy took place at the lecture-room of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle. The mummy, a female, brought from Egypt by Baron Denon, was presented to the Society by John Bowes Wright, esq., who purchased it at the Baron's sale in Paris. It was opened by Messrs. Greenhow, Baird, and Fife, surgeons. The quantity of Nankeen coloured cloth in which it was enveloped weighed no less than 50lb. 6oz. It took two hours to denude the body, which, when exposed and dissected, was found in a remarkably perfect state; the hair upon the head was long and perfect, of a reddish tinge, but become grey, the teeth were white and perfect, the breasts were large and pendulous, reaching almost down to the spurious ribs. The colour of the mummy was a sepia brown, it was contained in two cases, apparently of sycamore wood, above two inches thick, divided into equal portions, and in a state of considerable preservation. This mummy, in its denuded state, is in a glass case, and placed in the gallery of the library-room of the Literary and Philosophical Society.

March 9.—The Rev. R. Wasney, A. M., preached his last sermon at St. Thomas' chapel, north end of Tyne-bridge, Newcastle, previous to the removal of that ancient structure, to widen the entrance to the town. The corporation of the Trinity-house very handsomely offered to accommodate the congregation with their chapel, until the new church at the Barras-bridge could be got ready.

March 15.—An alarming fire took place in a thatched two story dwelling-house, situated at the west end of Tweedmouth, which occasioned the loss of two lives. One of the sufferers was Ann Aitchinson, 93 years of age, a rag woman, and in whose house

the fire originated; the other was Alexander Tindil, 80 years of age, who resided alone in a room above that of Aitchinson's; he could not be roused, and was very soon enveloped in the flames. The other occupants, twelve in number, escaped with their lives, but lost every thing they possessed. A subscription was entered into for their relief, having been reduced to a most deplorable state of destitution.

1830 (*March 19*).—Died, at Chester-le-Street, Mrs. Ann Watson, widow, aged 101 years.

April 18.—Died, at Bishopwearmouth Pans, Francis Donkin, keelman, aged upwards of 104 years.

April 20.—A new fish-market, at Alnwick, erected at the expense of his grace the duke of Northumberland, was opened on the above day, it being the anniversary of his grace's birth.

April 26.—The old chapel of St. Thomas à Becket, at the north end of Tyne-bridge, Newcastle, was commenced being pulled down, and on the 21st of June were commenced being erected on its site, a range of stone buildings, consisting of shops and apartments above them. These erections ought in justice to be called St. Thomas' Buildings which would perpetuate the site whereon stood the ancient chapel dedicated to that assassinated prelate. These buildings, which are placed $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet back from the line of the front of the old chapel, have made a great improvement in the turn from the bridge to the Sandhill, which before was inconveniently narrow and extremely dangerous to passengers.

April 28.—A petition to the king from Mr. Thomas Drummond, pitman, of Painshier, claiming the titles and dignities of the earl of Perth, in Scotland, which were forfeited by the attainder of his grandfather, James Drummond, commonly called the "duke of Perth," for having joined in the rebellion in Scotland in the year 1745, was by virtue of his majesty's order of reference, presented to the house of lords, and was referred by their lordships to a committee of privileges. The circumstances attending the claim of this *poor pitman* were said to be of a nature more interesting than any hitherto brought before the public. *See June 20th, 1831.*

May 1.—A large party of gentlemen, including a portion of the committee of management of the Stockton and Darlington railway company, a number of proprietors, the chief clerk, secretary, and other officers of the company, and several other individuals, set off from Darlington, in several railway coaches, carrying flags with appropriate mottoes and devices, to open the Hagger Leazes Branch, which diverges from the trunk of the railway at West Auckland, and extends westward to Cockfield Fell, and thence in the direction of Butterknowl colliery, in all a distance of five miles. The party were met at the foot of the inclined plane, near to West Auckland, a little before eleven o'clock, by Mr. Storey, the chief engineer of the company, and a considerable body of spectators, who had assembled to greet them on their arrival. The West Auckland band of music, seated in waggons provided for their convenience, having joined them, and a procession having been formed, it moved forward at a brisk pace. On entering upon the branch, the band

struck up "*God save the King*," and the populace, at that time still further augmented, gave three hearty cheers. Several ladies having, after a short delay, joined the procession, the word to advance was again given, and the whole body of carriages and people proceeded up the railway to the point of destination. The weather being extremely favourable, the number of spectators continued gradually to increase until they amounted to between 2,000 and 3,000. This branch was finally completed and opened with great *eclât*, October the 3d, 1830.

1830 (*May 14*).—The foundation stone of a chapel for the use of the Unitarian Christians, was laid in Bridge-street, Bishopwearmouth, by the Rev. William Turner, of Hanover-square chapel, Newcastle. Mr. Turner delivered an address on the occasion to the persons assembled to witness the ceremony.

Same day, died, in South-street, in the city of Durham, Mrs. Elizabeth Hodgson, aged 102 years.

May 15.—At the distribution of prizes at the conclusion of the medical session of the university of London, which took place on the above day, in the lower south Theatre, Sir James Graham, bart., in the chair, silver medals were awarded to Mr. Thomas G. Wright, of Stockton, for his proficiency in the classes of physiology and midwifery, and a certificate of honour in surgery. This young man served his apprenticeship with Mr. McIntyre, surgeon, in Newcastle.

May 19.—This day (Wednesday), and the two following, there were horse races on the island called the King's Meadows, in the river Tyne, a little west of Newcastle. Tents were erected on the island, and various shows, &c. on the north shore opposite, which drew together a vast number of people. There was also a regatta upon the river.

May 24.—The foundation stone of a new chapel was laid at Winton, in the county of Durham, by the Rev. J. Curtis, of the Methodist New Connexion, after which an appropriate discourse was delivered to a great number of persons assembled to witness the ceremony.

June 28.—The melancholy intelligence of the death of his late majesty king George IV. was received in Newcastle on the morning of the above day (Monday), and as early as six o'clock the bells of the several churches began to toll minute-time, and continued to do so alternate hours throughout the day. The flag on the castle was hoisted half staff high, as were also the colours of the several vessels in the river; most of the shops were closed or partially so, and the performances at the theatre were discontinued for that and the following evening. The flag on the castle retained its mournful position until after the interment of his late majesty took place.

Same day, as soon as the melancholy intelligence of his late majesty's demise was known at Sunderland, the flags were hoisted half staff high upon the steeples of the churches of Sunderland, Bishopwearmouth, and Monkwearmouth, and the bells were tolled without intermission until sunset. The vessels in the harbour also

displayed their colours half mast high on this mournful occasion, and the theatre was closed. The colours continued in that state till the period of his late majesty's interment. At the various other towns in Northumberland and Durham, every mournful token of respect was shewn on this melancholy occasion

Same day, died, in the Friars, Newcastle, Mrs. Sarah Clark, aged 101 years.

1830 (*June 30*).—Being the day appointed by George Shadforth, esq., mayor of Newcastle, for the proclamation of his majesty, William the Fourth, a troop of the Northumberland and Newcastle volunteer cavalry, and a company of the dismounted yeomanry, proceeded to the Sandhill shortly after eleven o'clock, where they formed into two lines for the purpose of escorting the civil authorities in the procession. At twelve o'clock a royal salute was fired from the castle, the bells of the different churches ringing merrily. A detachment of the artillery, and a troop of the 3d light dragoons, stationed at the barracks, then arrived, and formed in front of the local corps. At this period the scene was one of unusual animation, the day was uncommonly fine, and every window and house top which commanded a view of the spot were crowded to excess, and the Sandhill, outside the military lines, was one dense mass of spectators. The firing of the castle guns having ceased, the right worshipful the mayor, accompanied by the recorder, sheriff, under sheriff, several of the clergy, and a number of the gentlemen of the common council came down from the Guildhall to the Sandhill, preceded by the flag, mace, and sword of the corporation. The trumpet having sounded, the proclamation was read by Mr. Thomas Forsyth, the town-marshal, at the conclusion of which the band played "*God save the King*," and the populace joined in three times three cheers. The procession then moved slowly up the Side in the following order:—

Volunteer Dragoons in single files.
Dismounted Volunteers in ditto.
Constables.

Dragoons in double files.
Royal Artillery.
Dismounted Volunteers in double files.
Constables.
Free Porters with halberts.
Music.
Sergeants at Mace,
Corporation Flag.
Two Trumpeters.
Town-marshal with Proclamation.
Regalia.
2d Officer } Mayor. { Officer
in command. } commanding.
Aldermen. Recorder.
Aldermen. Aldermen.
Sheriff.
Under Sheriff. Town Clerk.
Clergy.
Common Councilmen, &c.
Dismounted Volunteers in double files.
Volunteer Dragoons in double files.

Volunteer Dragoons in single files.
Dismounted Volunteers in ditto.
Constables.

On arriving in St. Nicholas' Square, the proclamation was repeated,

as it was afterwards at the White Cross. The retinue then returned to the Guildhall by Blackett-street, Pilgrim-street, &c., and the civil authorities having withdrawn, the military returned to their stations. The bells continued to ring throughout the remainder of the day, and shortly after seven o'clock in the evening, another royal salute was fired from the castle. A royal salute was also fired from the ordnance stationed at the barracks. In the evening the worthy chief magistrate gave a grand dinner at the mansion-house (it being common council day), to the members of the council, the members of the chamber of Commerce, the military officers who had taken part in the business of the morning, and several private friends. The whole number present was between seventy and eighty gentlemen, who all appeared in full mourning. After the removal of the cloth, the chairman (Mr. Mayor) rose, and requested the company to fill a bumper, adding with much emphasis of manner, "To the health of our Most Gracious Sovereign, KING WILLIAM THE FOURTH—long life to him and prosperity to his reign!" This toast was drunk with great enthusiasm, followed by four times four cheers. Many other loyal and appropriate toasts and speeches were given, and shortly after ten o'clock the company separated, highly gratified with the hospitality of the worthy chief magistrate. His present majesty is a free burgess of this town. *See vol. i. page 355.* A copious account of the death, &c., of his late majesty, the proclaiming of King William IV., and the proceedings in Newcastle on these occasions, with copies of all the bills, circulars, &c., may be had of John Sykes.

1830 (*June 30*).—His present majesty, king William IV. was proclaimed in the barrack-yard, at Sunderland, by the officers of the depôt of the 80th regiment, and a *feu de joie* was fired by the soldiery.

July 3.—His majesty was proclaimed at Sunderland on the above day (Saturday), at noon by the magistrates.

July 5.—The ceremony of proclaiming his majesty took place at Durham, under the centre of the Piazza in the market-place, at one o'clock, by T. Griffith, esq., the under sheriff, accompanied by the mayor and aldermen in their robes, with the different trades' banners, halberdiers, constables, sheriff's officers, trumpeters, &c.; there were also present the bishop of Bristol, Rev. W. S. Gilly, Rev. C. Thorp, prebendaries of Durham, and a great concourse of citizens and inhabitants. The proclamation was afterwards read at the high side of the market, the procession then moved to the front of the county courts, at the head of Old Elvet, where the proclamation was repeated. Similar proceedings took place at all the other towns in Northumberland and Durham.

July 6.—Between four and five o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in the candle manufactory of Messrs. Green and Son, Gateshead. At first the progress of the flames was very alarming, but by speedy assistance they were fortunately subdued, after doing damage to the amount of between £200. and £300. The fire was supposed to have originated from a beam in one of the gable ends,

which had a communication with the flue of a furnace. A large stock of empty boxes, &c., laid up for winter use in lofts above the manufactory, was destroyed, and many candles and other things damaged. A quantity of spirits was in the adjoining premises, separated, however, from the fire, by a massy stone wall. Had the flames got an entrance there, the destruction must have been immense, and the danger of the houses in the neighbourhood proportionably increased. The property was fully insured.

1830 (*July 15*).—The day appointed for the interment of his late majesty king George IV., at Windsor, Newcastle presented an appearance of solemnity in strict accordance to the wishes of the chief magistrate. The magistracy went in solemn procession to St. Nicholas' church, preceded by the regalia covered with black crape. The free-masons and the orangemen went also in procession to the same edifice, the former according to the order in their circular, "Costume—Black, with black gloves, and regulation aprons," and the latter with orange rosettes in their breasts. St. Nicholas' church, on this occasion, was crowded to excess, many persons having to retire for want of accommodation. The pulpit was covered with black cloth, as were also the pews occupied by the magistrates. A very elegant escutcheon of the royal arms, with emblems of mortality, was placed in front of the organ gallery, the whole having a solemn and imposing appearance. An excellent sermon, suited to the occasion, was preached by the Rev. John Dodd, vicar, from Psalm 97th, verses 1st and 2d. The beautiful marble monument and inscription, to the memory of the late Rev. John Smith, vicar of Newcastle, which had recently been placed in this church, seemed to attract attention. *See January 22d, 1826.* A procession of odd fellows went to St. John's church, where prayers were read. All business was suspended at the Custom-house, Literary and Philosophical Society, &c. Various muffled peals were rung during the day, the artillery stationed at the barracks fired minute guns during one hour in the evening, and minute guns were fired from the castle for one hour before sunset, when the solemnities of the day terminated. Mournful observances of this day took place in all the towns and many of the villages in Northumberland and Durham.

July 27.—A live cattle market was held for the first time, on a piece of ground on the west side of the Forth, Newcastle. There was a large and choice supply of cattle, and a considerable supply of sheep and lambs. The number of the former about 130, and of the latter 900. Nearly the whole were sold. This market, which is held on the Tuesday in every week, was established by the Corporation of that town, who very generously announced that no charges would be made for pens, &c.

August 3.—A dreadful explosion of hydrogen gas took place in Jarrow colliery, at about twenty minutes before six o'clock on the morning, when forty-two men and boys were deprived of life. Twenty-one of the men were married, leaving widows and sixty-six children. There were one hundred and twenty men in the

mine, of whom seventy were in the Bensham seam where the blast took place. Ten more were much injured, and two horses were killed. It appeared on the inquest that the miners had broken into a crack or fissure in the coal, whence the inflammable gas suddenly issued, and was ignited by some negligence in the use of the Davy lamp, as the mine was well ventilated just before.

1830 (*Aug.* 17).—Died, at Sunderland, in the Minories, Mrs. Ann Erskine, aged 104 years.

August 21.—The new market, at Sunderland, was opened this day (Saturday) to the public, for the sale of butchers' meat, fish, poultry, vegetables, &c. &c. The commissioners under the paving and lighting act, walked in procession from the commission room to the market place, at six o'clock on the morning, when Mr. Caleb Wilson briefly addressed the spectators, declaring the market open for the sale of the above articles. About forty gentlemen, commissioners and others, dined together in celebration of the event, at the Golden Lion inn, on Tuesday the 24th, Sir Cuthbert Sharp in the chair.

August 22.—The new gallery and organ in the Catholic chapel, at North Shields, erected at the expense of the pastor, were opened, on which occasion several pieces of sacred music, by eminent composers, were performed on the organ. Sermons were also preached on the morning and in the evening, by the Rev. Thomas Gillow, in a very impressive manner. The chapel was crowded to excess. At the same time was uncovered, at the altar, a large picture of the crucifixion, painted by Ramsay, a composition of several figures larger than life, painted with great truth and brilliancy of effect. The cost of this picture was defrayed by voluntary subscriptions, in which Protestants as well as Catholics joined.

August 25.—This day (Wednesday) between twelve and one o'clock, arrived in Newcastle, the extraordinary stage performer, Miss D'Jeck, the Siamese elephant. Mr. Nicholson, the manager of the theatre royal in that town, having entered into engagements with Mr. Yates, for the performance of this animal upon the stage, it was intended to bring her from Edinburgh, where she had been performing, by the Ardincaple steam vessel sailing between Leith and Newcastle, but the high sea preventing the vessel from sailing in time, the elephant set out from Edinburgh in the evening of the 21st on foot, and walked the whole of the way from that city to Newcastle, a distance of about 120 miles. An immense concourse of people had assembled at the Barras-bridge, &c., Newcastle, to witness her entry. She had excited great curiosity on the road. The animal, which was about ten feet in height, was escorted into the town by thousands of curious attendants, among whom she gravely kept her way, preceded by her keeper, without rope or chain, and with perfect indifference. She proceeded by Pilgrim-street and Mosley-street, to the theatre (the stage door of which had been increased for her ingress), and exhibited her wonderful performances the same evening, without shewing any signs of

fatigue. The following was said to be her daily consumption, viz :— 76lbs. of potatoes, 60lbs. of hay, 60lbs. of straw, 11 quartern loaves, a bushel of bran, and a bushel of oats, and water in proportion. The keeper would allow her to take as much wine and beer as any one chose to give her, but spirits were forbidden. This noble animal was of a light colour and very fat. She had such an aversion to a carriage, that nothing could induce her to enter one. Whilst the elephant was at Morpeth, on her road to Newcastle, she killed one of her attendants, an Italian, named Baptiste Bernard. This man, in a state of intoxication, three years before, had stabbed the trunk of this noble animal with a fork, and otherwise ill used her, in consequence of which, she ever after regarded him with cross looks, but had never a fair opportunity of taking her revenge until at Morpeth, when he happening to be alone with her, she grasped him round the waist with her trunk, broke his ribs, and crushed him so much, that he vomited blood and died two days afterwards. On the expiration of her engagement at Newcastle, she was shipped from thence in the London steam-vessel, for the metropolis.

1830 (*Sept. 9*).—Died, at Clapham-rise, Surrey, William Bulmer, esq., aged 73 years, a native of Newcastle. The name of Bulmer is at once associated with all that is correct and beautiful in typography, and all that celebrity which for so many years has belonged to the Shakespeare press. In him it may be truly said, that the art of printing has been deprived of one of its brightest ornaments; as a proof it is only necessary to enumerate the beautiful edition of Goldsmith and Parnell's poems, and Somerville's Chase, with wood cuts by Messrs. Thomas and John Bewick.

September 9.—Died, at Greenfield, near Alnwick, Mr. John Henderson, aged 101 years.

September 10.—A very serious accident happened at Morpeth. There were some mountebanks who had been performing on the south side of the river on what is called the High-stanners, and after the performances were over, as the crowd was returning by the chain bridge at the foot of Aldgate, it came down with a tremendous crash, and from two hundred to three hundred persons upon it at the time, were precipitated into the river. The scene of confusion that ensued baffled description. One boy had his leg broken, another boy his thigh, and several persons were seriously injured, but happily no lives were lost. The accident was occasioned by some idle fellows jumping upon the bridge when much crowded.

September 19.—The Catholic chapel, in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, was re-opened for divine worship, after having undergone a thorough painting, gilding, &c., and with the addition of side galleries. Two finely relieved representations of St. Peter and St. Paul, (executed by Mr. J. Ewbank,) were painted, one on each side of the altar; they are imitations of statues standing in niches in the wall, and from the judicious distribution of light and shade, have an imposing effect. Selections of vocal and instrumental

music were performed, and collections made towards defraying the expenses, amounting to nearly £50.

1830 (*Sept. 22*).—The new Catholic chapel at Hexham, was first opened for divine worship, when a Pontifical high mass was celebrated by the right rev. Dr. Penswick, of Liverpool, assisted by several clergymen, and a sermon was preached by the rev. F. Trappes, of Lea-house, near Preston, when a collection was made in aid of the funds of the chapel, and for building a school. There was a very respectable and numerous attendance. The choristers, vocal and instrumental, performed several fine pieces of music, under the direction of Mr. Haupt, of Newcastle. The sum collected amounted to upwards of £30.

September.—Some workmen employed in levelling a part of the Newcastle road, about a mile and a half east of Hexham, found, a little beneath the surface of the ground, the skeleton of a man, which had apparently lain there a long time, and had been deposited with much care, a grave having been formed of large stones set up in such a manner as to prevent the earth from coming in immediate contact with the body.

September.—At this time Hexham church was undergoing very important alterations in its interior, in being re-pewed and fitted up with stoves and flues for heating it. The workmen, in clearing a piece of ground lying between the south transept and the side entrance to the choir, where the boiler was to be placed, uncovered a number of ancient tomb stones of a description exactly similar to that of John Malerbe, described and illustrated with an engraving in Wright's *History of Hexham*. They were very uniform in size and figure, being coffin-shaped and presenting no inscription but the name, which ran length-ways along the centre of the stone in old characters, but perfectly legible. The masons used part of them in carrying on the repairs of the church.

This month, in digging a grave near the north wall of Tyne-mouth abbey, a rude stone coffin was discovered, in which two human bodies had been deposited. One of the skeletons, on the air being admitted, immediately crumbled to dust, whilst the other who had been a person of superior magnitude, remained perfect a considerable time.

October 6.—A bazaar for the benefit of the infant schools in Newcastle, was opened at the new Music-hall, in Blackett-street, built by Mr. Richard Grainger, who generously gave the use of it for the occasion. This splendid room was neatly decorated with festoons of evergreens and flowers. The stalls (twelve in number) were arranged up each side of the room and across the ends, on which were placed fancy articles of every description, many of them most tastefully and superbly got up, and furnished by the ladies and friends to the institution. The stalls were attended by ladies of the first distinction and respectability of the town and the neighbourhood; amongst whom were lady Ravensworth, and the hon. Misses Liddell, Mrs. Richmond, Mrs. Bell, of Woolsington; Misses Bell, of Benton; Misses Bell, of Newbigen; Mrs. Allgood, Mrs. R.

Hedley, Mrs. Cresswell Baker, Mrs. Dr. Headlam, Miss Loraine, Mrs. George Carr, and the Misses Carr, Mrs. Vivian, the Misses Brougham, Mrs. Anthony Clapham, Mrs. Bragg, Miss Surtees, Miss Forster, Mrs. Captain Dale, Misses Ormston, Miss Dodd, &c. &c. This being the first bazaar ever got up in that town, and for such a noble purpose, it excited very great interest, and long before the time of opening the room, the front was crowded with beauty and fashion, anxious to gain admittance. During the whole of the time the bazaar was open, the room was crowded with visitors, and many could not get admission. The receipts the first day were £420., including £85. 5s. for entrance; on the second day, £225. including £31. 1s. for entrance, making the gross receipt on the two days, £645. Mrs. Wentworth Beaumont, sent a donation of £5. Mrs. and Miss Craster, (lady patronesses), £5. A friend to infant schools by Mrs. Headlam, £5., and a friend to early education, by Mrs. Burnett, £2. 2s. making the total of £662. 2s. The ladies kindly condescended to give their attendance another day, to dispose of the articles unsold. The third day's receipt amounted to £50. 13s. making the total sum received on the three days, £712. 15s.

1830 (*Oct. 14*).—The lord bishop of Carlisle, consecrated a piece of ground which had been liberally given to the parish of Alnwick, by his grace the duke of Northumberland, for the enlargement of the church yard, it being in an excessively crowded state.

October 19.—The hon. and right rev. Dr. Percy, lord bishop of Carlisle, proceeded from the mansion-house, of Newcastle, to consecrate the new chapel of the hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, at the Barras-bridge. His lordship was attended by the right worshipful the mayor (Archibald Reed, esq.), aldermen, town clerk, and other civic officers, and by the rev. the vicar of Newcastle, and several clergymen, and gentlemen. The procession occupied five carriages, and was preceded by the sergeants at mace on foot. On the entrance of the prelate and cortège to the chapel, the members of the Newcastle and Gateshead choral society sung the chorus "Lift up your heads," accompanied by Mr. Ingham on the piano forte, and by a small band of music led by Mr. Bagnall. His lordship advanced to the communion table, on the north side of which he sat down, while the clergy and corporation officers occupied the seats nearest the east end of the building. After the petition from the master and brethren of St. Thomas' hospital praying his lordship to consecrate the chapel, had been read, his lordship proceeded to the business of the consecration. The deed of consecration was afterwards read by the Rev. James Raine, of Durham, as the representative of the chancellor, and the bishop having signed it ordered it to be duly registered. The Rev. Mr. Wasney, then proceeded with the morning service, and the proper psalms and lessons appointed for the consecration of churches, the bishop reading the communion service. The Rev. R. Clayton, master of the hospital, then preached a very appropriate sermon, from Revelations, chap. 21st. verse 3d. On its conclusion, the

choral society sung the Hallelujah chorus, and after the great body of the congregation had departed, the bishop administered the sacrament to those who wished to be partakers of it. This elegant chapel called, St. Thomas's, was not quite finished, but the east window of stained glass, manufactured by Mr. John Gibson, of Newcastle, excited much admiration. The window is in three divisions, at the top of the centre one, are the arms of the corporation, whilst the division on the north displays the arms of the present master of the hospital, and the south those of George Anderson, esq., a liberal benefactor to the building of the chapel. The chapel was first opened for divine service on the 7th of November, 1830.



1830 (*Oct. 25*).—The first horse and cattle fair was held at Morpeth. It was to be held half yearly ; the second fair, was held on the 24th of March, 1831.

November 11.—Darlington was first lighted with gas.

November 12.—Died, in the parish of Bywell, St. Peter, Northumberland, Mr. George Stobart, aged 101 years.

November 28.—About six o'clock in the evening of this day (Sunday), some wicked incendiaries set fire to a barn, in the occupation of Mr. Hodgson, butcher, at Swalwell, in the county of Durham, by which it was entirely destroyed. As there was at this time an incalculable destruction of farmers' and other property in the southern counties by diabolical incendiaries, the magistrates of the county of Durham came promptly forward and offered a reward of 300 guineas for the apprehension of the offender or offenders. As

Swing letters* and burnings are so lamentably prevalent at the present day, it may not be uninteresting to give a copy of a Swing letter of nearly a century ago. At the assizes for Durham, in the year 1734, John Elcoate, of Carr-house, was tried for sending the following threatening letter to Henry Vane, esq.:—"Janawary 8, 1734. Sir, These lines is to clere the innocent and not discry the gulty, know thou that we ware 4 that brunt Carrhouse out of spite of the Vanes and their 2 stewards because they had seized on his corn and what he had and for breaking all our leases by which we who ware worth 1500 pounds when our leases was broken is not now worth 15 farthings. We did attempt three times before we got it done, the first time was put by Helcoate self and the next by a showre of rain. 3d time it took fire but the wind was to slow, but the 4th paide for all, but the wind was so great that the hay at the west end would not keap fire, or else the house had gone too, that wold done it, for we knew as he had marked all he was to make all good, but we do not feare but burn house and all before 12 months be at end and except you will do 2 things that is turn out Dixon and Tom Hutchinson from being stewards and use mercy to poor Helcoate or else by G-d we will not leive a barn between Pearse bridge and Langly dale. Be how it will by G-d if they keep their places they shall never dye with their shows of. Farewel; fulfil our desires if thou wil save thy houses and Barnes from fire." The result of this trial is not stated.

1830 (*Dec. 27*).—The Stockton and Darlington railway suspension bridge, erected over the river Tees, near Stockton by Captain Brown, R. N., was opened. The foundation stone was laid on the 18th July, 1829. It is calculated that this bridge will sustain a weight of 150 tons. At the same time an immense entire coal, weighing upwards of two tons, was sent down by this railway, to Middleborough, from the Black Boy colliery, to be shipped for the London market; and which, when broken, was calculated to make two London chaldrons.

1831 (*Jan. 3*).—Died, at the High Felling, near Newcastle, Ruth, widow of Mr. Wm. Hays, of that place, cooper, aged 108 years. She retained her faculties until within two days of her death, and lived and died in the same house in which she was born.

January 9.—A serious calamity had nearly befallen the parish church at Warkworth, in Northumberland, by the destruction of that ancient edifice, which, however, was providentially prevented by the combined and prompt exertions of the inhabitants. The flues had been heated three days previously, which rendered the wood near them exceedingly susceptible of ignition; and about half-past five o'clock in the evening of the above day (Sunday), it was discovered that a pew under which one of the flues passed was in flames. The alarm was instantly given, and nearly the whole population assembled, and in about an hour the fire was suppressed, with only the partial destruction of the pew where it commenced.

The same month, a fire was discovered in the church, at Wallsend, in Northumberland, but by timely assistance it was extinguished

* So called on account of the signature "Swing" being at them.

after one pew was burnt. This fire had also originated in the flue.

1831 (*Jan.* 10).—The right hon. Lord Ossulston, attained his 21st year, on which occasion, instead of the usual general festivities, his lordship decided upon distributing charity to the necessitous poor, on the extensive estates of the earl of Tankerville, which was done munificently. Blankets, clothing, coals, and a donation in money, were distributed to each necessitous family. Thus, at that inclement season of the year, the poor at Chillingham, Wooler, and Doddington, in various ways received a kind and liberal benefaction, as did also the poor of Embleton and Wark, in donations of money. His lordship's numerous labourers at Chillingham, were, upon the occasion, regaled with beef and ale, for which purpose three of the wild cattle (a breed now peculiar to the park at Chillingham, this ancient breed of cattle having been every where else lost), were shot, a portion of which, as well as furnishing the labourers' dinner, was distributed to every poor family in the parish. After having been plentifully refreshed with beef and ale, and having drunk with enthusiasm the healths of the various members of the house of Tankerville, particularly that of "Long life and happiness to the noble heir of the house," the labourers invited their wives and sweethearts to a dance in which the domestics of the castle joined, and which was kept up with great mirth and good humour to a late hour. There was also a dinner provided for the domestics of Chillingham castle on the occasion, at which hilarity and satisfaction prevailed.

January 22.—A melancholy accident happened at Messrs. Stephenson and Co's. steam engine manufactory, in South-street, Newcastle. Some of the workmen had been employed in weighing the materials of an engine about to be sent away, and on taking down the scales from a pair of sheer-legs, the latter fell over, and struck Mr. John Stephenson (brother to the celebrated engineer) with such force against a vice, that his head was fractured, and he died instantly. Verdict, accidental death. The deceased was 42 years of age, and left a widow and four children. Nearly 200 of his friends and the workmen of the manufactory attended his funeral.

January 28.—A very intense frost set in at Newcastle and the neighbourhood, which continued until Tuesday, February the first, when a heavy snow storm set in, accompanied by a tremendous gale of wind from the S. E., which covered the country with snow to the mean depth of three feet. The mail coach from London to Edinburgh could get no further than Morpeth on the following morning, the road north of that place being completely blocked up, and in many places from four to six yards deep, but the bags were forwarded on horseback. The coaches from Newcastle to Morpeth had great difficulty in reaching their destination on the Tuesday evening. The Alnwick coaches did not set off from Newcastle on the Wednesday, owing to the drifted state of the roads. The coaches from the south and the west, although considerably delayed, were able, with the aid of additional horses, to get through. Many of the carriers from the country could not reach

Newcastle. Early on the Wednesday morning, the Young Husband, London trader, of Newcastle, captain Walker,* was totally lost with all her crew, off Seaton rocks, about a mile north of Alnmouth. A considerable quantity of goods and spirits were washed on shore. February the 4th, as Richard Watson and James Walton, two miners, were returning from work on the Teesdale side of the mountains to Chapel, on reaching the first house Watson urged his companion to go no further, but the latter persisted in going forward to the next house at any rate, which was about a mile farther. Before however they had got half that distance, Walton was quite exhausted, and Watson struggled with him, carrying him at last on his back, until he came near the house, when fearing they would both be lost, he was under the necessity of leaving him in the snow whilst he endeavoured to reach the house. Having procured assistance, he returned to his comrade, who was still alive, but they had scarcely carried him into the house before he expired. The Union coach from Newcastle to Edinburgh, was unable to get farther than Haggerston, the hospitable mansion of lady Haggerston, who most kindly sent to inform the passengers and guard, that her house and table were at their service till the storm abated, and they were able to proceed on their journey. The Wellington coach from Newcastle to Edinburgh was buried in a snow wreath for several days in the vicinity of Millfield, and the Chevy Chase post coach was detained for eight days near Jedburgh. Thomas Simpson, game keeper to Sir Edward Blackett, bart., was lost in the storm on Tuesday, February the first. He left Hexham in the afternoon for Matfen, and had got near to Stagshaw Bank, where his body was found on Wednesday the 9th. Adam Riddell, a shepherd of Elsdon, also lost his life during the storm. February the 4th, snow, sleet, and hail, fell with little intermission during the whole day, accompanied by a very high wind, and the frost continued with great intensity till Monday the 7th, when a thaw succeeded. The sudden melting of the snow, aided by a strong south west wind, caused the Tyne and its tributary streams to rise to an unusual height. On the 9th the whole of the low ground in the vicinity of Dunston was under water; the houses of the poor inhabitants were completely inundated, many of them up to the roofs, and the loss sustained was very great. Mr. Ramsay, of Derwent-haugh, lost about 50 casks of salamoniack, and a kiln of fire bricks, which was just fired, and other property to a considerable amount. The whole of the houses on the flats from Newburn downwards, were under water, and much damage done; large quantities of hay, household furniture, &c., were seen floating down the river. The Quay and many other of the lower parts of Newcastle, were overflowed, and almost all the cellars on the Quay and in the Close were filled with water.

* Captain Walker's body, together with two of the crew, were cast on shore near to where the vessel was wrecked, and interred at Lesbury, attended by his friends. He was a native of Newcastle, in his 37th year, and very highly respected.

Mr. Jabez Hood's cellars were filled with water which reached within a few feet of the Close. At Messrs. Cookson's foundry in this street, the men were laid off work in consequence, and the works of other manufactories were more or less impeded. Great destruction was done among the vessels at Shields, about 50 vessels were driven from their moorings, and a ballast keel, with an old man on board, was carried out to sea and was fallen in with on the following day, upwards of twenty miles from the land, by a vessel belonging to Sunderland, when the poor man was rescued from his perilous situation and brought into Sunderland. On the 9th, Mr. Thos. Thompson, of Newcastle, organist, had a very narrow escape from being drowned, as he was proceeding from the Sandhill to the Quay in a Shields vehicle. The horse being blind, on getting amongst the water which extended across the Quay, took fright, and began to plunge, and the driver lost his command over him; luckily a bolt gave way, and detached the carriage from the shafts, by which the lives of both were saved, as the horse ran forward, plunged into the river, and was immediately out of sight. During this snow storm, upwards of twenty ships were wrecked between Shields and Blyth, on the coast of Northumberland.

1831 (*Jan. 29*).—The first number of a newspaper entitled the "Sunderland and Durham General Shipping Gazette and Mercantile Advertiser," was published at Sunderland by William Gracie. It was discontinued after a few months.

The same day, the petitions agreed to at a public meeting of the inhabitants of South Shields, praying the legislature to include, in a measure of parliamentary reform, a grant to that town of the important privilege of returning its own representatives, having received 2,300 signatures, a deputation waited on Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., and John Hodgson, esq., the members for Newcastle, on the above day, with the petition to the House of Commons, for presentation by them, agreeably to the resolutions of the meeting; the petition to the House of Lords was presented by the marquis of Cleveland.

This month, the town of Hexham was first lighted and watched.

February 10.—The cut which had been some time in progress to improve the navigation of the river Tees was opened in due form. About two o'clock a large party of the Tees Navigation Company, accompanied by a numerous body of friends, proceeded down the river in a steam boat, when the brig Arno was towed through the cut, preceded by a number of steam boats, &c., amidst loud rejoicings, and in the presence of a great concourse of spectators, who lined the banks of the river. On quitting the vessels, the company went in procession to the town-hall, preceded by a band of music, and in the evening a party of upwards of 100 gentlemen celebrated the event by a dinner at the Assembly-rooms. Leonard Raisbeck, esq. presided, supported on his right by Lord Falkland, M. Fowler, esq., Colonel Grey, Sir Cuthbert Sharp, and W. W. Jackson, esq., and on his left by Thomas Meynell, esq.,

W. T. Salvin, esq., Rev. John Brewster, John Cartwright, esq., the vicar of Norton, J. Favell, esq., and William Skinner, jun., esq., G. W. Todd, officiating as vice chairman. This new cut formed a new channel for the river, commencing near Blue House Point (about a mile from Stockton) on the west, and terminating near Newport on the east, being in length about three quarters of a mile, its depth sixteen feet, and its breadth 250 feet, and by it vessels are enabled to sail up to Stockton, which could not navigate the old channel.

1831 (*Feb. 22*).—At a general meeting of the coal-owners, ship-owners, merchants, and other persons interested in the trade of the port of Newcastle, held in the Guildhall of that town on the above day, the right worshipful Archibald Reed, esq., in the chair, it was resolved to petition both houses of parliament for the abolition of the duty on coals exported coastways from the river Tyne, called the duke of Richmond's shilling. The following is a copy of the petition:—

“The humble petition of the undersigned, coal-owners, ship-owners, merchants, and other persons interested in the trade of the port of Newcastle upon Tyne, *sheweth*,—That on the 8th day of April, in the 42d year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the company of Hoastmen of the town of Newcastle upon Tyne, who had received a charter of incorporation from Queen Elizabeth, and then exercised the exclusive privilege of vending all coals shipped on the river Tyne, granted to her majesty, her heirs, and successors, the sum of twelve pence for every chaldron of coals, Newcastle measure, which should be exported from the river Tyne, to be spent within the realm, and not transported beyond seas.

“That the duty was received by the crown until the 29th year of the reign of King Charles the Second, when his majesty by letters patent, granted the same to his majesty's natural son, Charles duke of Richmond, and his heirs, subject to a provision for his mother, Louise, duchess of Portsmouth.

“That the said duty continued in the family of the duke of Richmond until the year 1799, when it was purchased by government for about £400,000, since which period government has been in the receipt of the proceeds, and in consequence of the vast increase of the coal trade which has taken place since, and the corresponding increase in the produce of this duty, the capital sum or purchase money and all interest thereon has not only been fully redeemed, but a surplus or profit of upwards of half a million sterling has been actually realized by government.

“That the company of Hoastmen by whom this duty was originally granted, and who were at liberty to tax themselves, but not the rest of his majesty's subjects, have long since lost by disuse, the exclusive privilege of vending coals on the river Tyne, and with that privilege this tax ought to have fallen, as did a duty of threepence a chaldron, granted by that company to other parties; and so it would have fallen, had not a clause been introduced into the act for vesting this duty in the crown, on the occasion of its

purchase of the duke of Richmond, in 1799, which operated as a parliamentary confirmation of a grant, which otherwise could not have been supported at law.

“ That your petitioners humbly represent, that when this tax began to be paid, the coal trade of the kingdom was almost intirely confined to Newcastle, which port also enjoyed several special privileges connected with the coal trade, which have been since abrogated, and at present not more than one half of the coals exported from the east coast of the island are sent from that port.

“ This tax being paid only on coals shipped from the river Tyne, has now become a grievous burthen on the coal trade of that river, which in other respects maintains an unequal competition with the port of Sunderland, the coal of the river Wear bearing a higher price in the London market than that of the Tyne; this partial impost of one shilling a chaldron on the coal of the Tyne tends, therefore, still further to depress an already inferior article, and operates as a premium in favour of the trade of the great and powerful coal-owners on the river Wear, at the expense of the trade of the river Tyne.

“ Your petitioners feel this grievance the more painfully, as they have the highest legal authority, viz.:—the joint opinion of the present lord chancellor and Sir James Scarlett, obtained in the year 1829, that they could have successfully resisted by law the payment of this duty before the passing of the act of 39th of Geo. III., for carrying into effect the purchase made by government of the duke of Richmond, into which act, by accident or design, a clause has been introduced confirmatory of the title of this impost.

“ Your petitioners cannot allow themselves to believe, that whilst the general coast duties on coals, oppressive as they may be, but still equal in their pressure, are repealed, this partial and unjust tax will be permitted to continue to burthen his majesty's loyal subjects interested in the trade of the river Tyne.

“ Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray, that the same may be forthwith repealed,

“ And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.”

In consequence of the above petition, aided by the strenuous exertions of the local members of parliament, this odious and oppressive tax was repealed. It has not been levied on any vessel from the river Tyne since March, 1831. *See May 4th, 1831.*

1831 (*Feb. 26*).—As Mr. John Heweson and Mr. John Branford, two primitive Methodist preachers, accompanied by a female, were passing from Bishopwearmouth along the Hetton Coal Company's railway, near Warden Law, to escape the danger on the inclined plane, they unfortunately rushed in between the light and laden waggons in passing, when they were crushed between the waggons, by which Mr. Heweson was killed on the spot, and Mr. Branford survived a very short time. The young woman fortunately escaped unhurt. They were men of exemplary zeal and piety; one left a widow with five children, the other a widow with six children. Their funeral, which took place at Sunderland, excited great interest

and sympathy, and their remains were followed to the grave by some thousands of persons.

1831 (*Feb. 26*).—There was a meeting of the pitmen of the Tyne and Wear, amounting to about 8,000 or 10,000 on the Black Fell, near Chester-le-Street, when they entered into resolutions to demand higher wages.

February 28,—A very handsome vessel of 600 tons burthen, called the “Duke of Northumberland,” was launched from Mr. Smith’s dock, at St. Peters’ near Newcastle. She was to supply the place of the “George Green,” which had been built in the same yard in 1829, for the same company of London gentlemen, but which was lost on her passage from the Tyne to London. *See December 26, 1829, page 271.*

February 28.—On this day (Monday), Thomas Clarke, was executed on the New Drop in front of the county courts at Durham, for the murder of Mary Ann Westhorpe, his fellow servant, at Hallgarth water-mill, near Durham, on the afternoon of Sunday the 8th of August, 1830, while their master and mistress were from home. His trial commenced at the city of Durham before Mr. Justice Littledale on the 25th of February, and before eight o’clock on the morning, such was the extraordinary excitement of the inhabitants of that city and neighbourhood, that the court was immediately filled almost to suffocation. The examination of the witnesses did not conclude until nearly ten o’clock at night, when the judge observed, that at that late hour he should not sum up the evidence unless the jury particularly wished it. They jury said they did not wish it. His lordship then intimated, that they must be all kept together till the next morning, and hold no conversation with any on the subject of this trial. The court was then adjourned till nine o’clock on the following morning. The jury were attended by the under sheriff and an officer to Mrs. Best’s, the Half Moon inn, where they had a room set apart for themselves. A little after nine o’clock the next morning, Mr. Justice Littledale entered the court, and almost immediately afterwards proceeded to sum up the evidence with great minuteness and impartiality. The jury retired at a quarter past twelve o’clock; and after an absence of twenty-five minutes, returned with a verdict of GUILTY. The judge then placed the black cap on his head, and on the prisoner being asked what he had to say, why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, he simply replied—“I am innocent of the crime.” His lordship then addressed the prisoner, and afterwards passed sentence of death upon him in the usual terms, ordering him to be executed on the Monday, and his body to be afterwards given to the surgeons for dissection. On the Monday morning an immense concourse of people had assembled in front of the county courts to witness the execution of this unfortunate young man. The Rev. Mr. Wheeler attended him during the greatest part of the forenoon, and joined him in prayer. The prisoner, at intervals, was much agitated and wept bitterly, but made no confession of his guilt. At a quarter past twelve o’clock, the criminal was

brought out to the scaffold, dressed in a black coat, light waistcoat and brown trowsers, and held a white handkerchief in his hand. He was supported by the Rev. Mr. Wheeler, and Mr. A. Hopton, and was attended by the under sheriff and some of his officers and the governor of the gaol. When he ascended the drop, he stood very firm and addressed the assembled multitude in the following words:—" *Gentlemen, I am innocent—I am going to suffer for another man's crime !*" The cap was immediately afterwards drawn over his face—the drop fell—and this world closed upon him for ever. After the body had been suspended for nearly an hour, it was taken down, and conveyed in a shell to the Durham Infirmary for dissection. His age was stated in the calendar at 19 years. His victim about the same age. The trial and execution of Thomas Clarke, occasioned a ballad on the subject with a wood cut view of the place, printed by Mr. Francis Humble, at the Durham Advertiser Office, upon a foolscap broadside, with a heavy black border; the wood cut in the centre is also within a black border, whilst the title of the tragedy is printed in red ink, being very proper colours for this mournful and bloody deed, The Hallgarth Mill tragedy consists of thirty-four stanzas, from which the following verses are extracted:—

“ Eighteen hundred three times ten,
 August the eighth that day—
 Let not that Sunday and that year
 From memory pass away.
 At Hallgarth Mill near Pitlington,
 Was done a murder foul;
 The female weak—the murd’rer strong,
 No pity for her soul.
 Her skull was broke, her throat was cut,
 Her struggle soon was o’er;
 And down she fell, and “ fetch’d ” a sigh,
 And welter’d in her gore.
 Her fellow servant, Thomas Clarke,
 To Sherburn *slowly* sped
 And told a tale that strangers six,
 Had done the dreadful deed.
 Now woe befall thee Thomas Clarke,
 For this thy coward lie;
 A youth like thee, for girl like her,
 Would fight till he did die.
 ‘ They’ve kill’d the lass,’ it was his tale,
 ‘ And nearly have kill’d me,’
 But when upon him folks did look,
 No bruises could they see.”

Being upon this subject, I cannot here resist giving an account of some other tragedies which have been printed in connexion with the county of Durham, viz:—The Hartlepool, Barnardcastle, Staindrop, and Bedlington tragedies. The former arose out of the murder of Mary Farding, who was thrown over the cliff called the Maiden Bower at that place.* *See vol. i. page 143.*

* A small rock detached from the moor, a few yards to the north of what is

The Barnardcastle tragedy relates how one John Atkinson, of Morton, near Appleby, courted Betty Howson, of Barnardcastle Bridge-end, and after having gained her affections, forsook her for another, whom he married, upon which she broke her heart and died.

The Staindrop tragedy relates to a murder committed by a man named Vert, (who was afterwards executed and hung in chains,) upon a young woman who was pregnant by him, and that the body was discovered under some bushes by means of a dog.

The Bedlington tragedy was occasioned by a fair lady of that place, with great store of wealth, having fallen in love with "a famous youth," whose personal worth was all his riches, and in consequence of which, her parents sends her to an uncle at Stokesley. A few days after her departure, this young man "sickened sore, and heart-broke died." After his death, the parents make every preparation to bring her home to a rich lover of their own choice, but the ghost of "young James" anticipates their intentions by taking the horse (which was saddled for the use of the father) from the stable and assuming his earthly appearance, arrives at the uncle's with an order to convey her home, who assists her to mount behind. Having "travelled faster than the wind," in two hours "he sets her at her father's door," then leaves her for the purpose of putting the horse into the stable, but is never more seen. On hearing of the death of her lover she sickens, takes to her bed and dies, and is buried in the same grave. Though there is some fiction interwoven in this story, nevertheless it may be founded upon facts. For the particulars of the Staindrop tragedy, I am indebted to my friend the Rev. Thomas Ebdon, Durham. Copies of the other tragedies are in my possession.

1831 (*March* 12).—An immense number of pitmen, belonging to the collieries on the Tyne and Wear, assembled together on the Black Fell, in the county of Durham, for the purpose of entering into resolutions, and considering the means of obtaining from their employers an increase of wages.

March 21.—The under-ground workmen of forty-seven collieries on the Tyne and Wear, held a meeting on the town-moor, Newcastle, to take measures for obtaining some improvement in their condition. During the forenoon, great numbers passed

called the East Battery, cannot fail, from its singular situation, to attract the notice of the stranger. The yawning space which separates this rock from the main land, is known by the name of Maiden Bower, and many a tale of "plighted faith and broken vows," is associated with it; for, almost within the memory of man, Mary Farding is recorded to have been thrown over this precipice, by a merchant of Northallerton. The name "Maiden Bower," was not derived from this circumstance, as it occurs frequently in the Parish Register, previous to this period. The entry with regard to this atrocious and premeditated murder, relates that "Mary Farding, a stranger, who by the coroners inquest was found to be murdered by William Stephenson, merchant in Northallerton, to whom she was pregnant, was buried June 7, 1727." A charge still exists in the church-wardens' accounts, dated June 7, 1727, of 1s. 10d. "for making Mary Farding's grave." *Sir Cuthbert Sharp's History of Hartlepool*, page 157. See vol. i. page 143.

through the town in procession, apparently without exciting the least uneasiness or alarm among the inhabitants; and it was calculated that nearly 20,000 were assembled by one o'clock at the place of rendezvous. Several persons addressed the meeting, and detailed in homely but energetic language, the grievances under which they considered themselves to labour. These did not appear to be so much connected with the prices of work, as with some objectionable parts of the bond of service, the chief of which were the power of the owners to lay the men idle on the occurrence of the most trifling accident to the pits, to the engines, or even to the waggon rail-roads, after which their wages are discontinued for three days; their subjection to the caprice of the viewers and agents, not only for a continuance of work, but even for shelter for their wives and families, as they are liable to be turned out of their houses, either on the completion, or on the non-fulfilment of the articles of the bond, arising from mutual disagreement; the obligation they are under to remain idle at Christmas, without any compensation; and the length of time boys are immured in the collieries, to the destruction of health, and of almost every chance of education or moral improvement. During the course of the proceedings, it was resolved to petition parliament, to subscribe sixpence each to send deputies to London with the petitions; to continue to work, unbound, after their period of services has expired, if the owners would allow them—otherwise to cease working, and claim parish relief or magisterial interference, until their remonstrances were attended to, and the bond altered accordingly; that the men of every colliery should meet twice a week; that each pit should send a delegate to form a general committee for carrying the resolutions into effect; that no man should in future, buy meat, drink, or candles, from any one connected with the collieries; and that the thanks of the meeting should be given to the right worshipful Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, of Newcastle, (who appeared in the midst of the assembly for a few minutes, and advised the leaders to inculcate order and peace as the surest means of obtaining justice), for the friendly advice he had given them, and for kindly offering to be the medium of communication between them and their employers, as far as he could conveniently. These resolutions were severally put and carried unanimously, by a show of hands, which, from the immense number held up, had a very great effect. The whole proceedings were conducted without the least disturbance, and the parties returned to their homes in the afternoon in good order.

The annual period of servitude of the colliers of the Tyne and the Wear having expired on the 5th of April, most of them refused to enter into fresh engagements with their employers until the differences between them were adjusted. The latter it was said, had agreed that the boys should in future work only twelve hours a day, and that the workmen should be paid their wages in money, and have power to buy goods where they pleased; but the men continued to insist upon other conditions. On the following day

(Wednesday), great numbers of them met at the Black Fell, with a hope that some further arrangement would be proposed by the coal-owners ; but as none were forthcoming, they dispersed, with a resolution not to return to work on the former terms. In the meantime parties of military had been placed in readiness to assist the civil power in preserving the peace, and several Northumberland magistrates, wholly unconnected with the collieries, offered themselves as mediators between the coal-owners and the pitmen. The magistrates announced that they would “ be ready to meet the parties at the Moot Hall, in Newcastle, on Monday, the 11th of April,” which was accordingly done, but unfortunately failed in their well-intentioned efforts.

1831 (*March*).—The foundation stone of a chapel belonging to the established church was laid at Seaton Carew, in the county of Durham.

April 5.—A very handsome silver cup was presented to Mr. Henry Ingledew, solicitor, by a portion of the parishioners of St. Nicholas, in Newcastle. On one side of the cup a beautiful representation of the steeple of St. Nicholas’ church is engraved, and on the other the following inscription, viz.:—“ Presented to Henry Ingledew, esquire, scrivener and solicitor, one of the church-wardens of the parish of St. Nicholas, in the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne, by a portion of the parishioners, in testimony of the sense entertained of his assiduous and indefatigable attention to, and faithful discharge of, the various duties of the office ; for the efficient and excellent manner in which he has mainly contributed to ascertain the privileges, and establish, on a firm basis, the rights and immunities of the church ; and for his uniform attention to all matters connected with its interests. Easter Tuesday, 5th April, 1831.” The cup was presented on behalf of the subscribers by Mr. John Rawling Wilson, who is the senior member of the “ Four and Twenty,” of St. Nicholas’ parish.

April 11.—A mendicity society for the suppression of vagrancy and mendicity, and the relief of deserving objects of charity, commenced its operations in Newcastle, by opening an establishment in Castle-street, immediately adjoining the Castle. Within six months from its first establishment, this society had relieved 1,835 strangers :—viz., 779 English, 640 Irish, 401 Scotch, and 15 Foreigners.

April 12.—Being the day appointed for the opening of the suspension bridge over the river Tyne, at Scotswood, about three miles west of Newcastle, the morning was ushered in by peals of bells from the churches of that town. At twelve o’clock Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, and John Hodgson, esq., M. P., for Newcastle, met the committee of management, the proprietors and various other friends of the undertaking at the Assembly-rooms, from whence, after a short time, on a signal being given from the guns of the castle, the procession set forward in the following manner, viz.:—full band of music ; banners ; banner of the bridge with the motto “ Cœlo pendit iter, ripas vinxere catenæ ;” town marshal on

horseback; sword bearer* on horseback; the architect of the bridge, (Mr. Green) on horseback; the carriage and four of the mayor of Newcastle; the carriage and four of the sheriff of Northumberland (George Silvertop, esq.); the carriage and four of John Hodgson, esq., M. P., the carriage of Mrs. Hodgson; four carriages and four, containing the committee of management, viz:—Humble Lamb, Matthew Wheatley, George Hepple Ramsay, Matthias W. Dunn, Matthew Wheatley, jun., John Mulcaster, George Thomas Dunn, Joseph C. Lamb, esquires, and Mr. Thomas Grieveson, the honorary secretary; the carriage and four of Lord Decies; the carriage and four of Humble Lamb, esq.; the royal mail-coach with a flag flying, the guard blowing his horn occasionally; a long train of carriages followed (between 80 and 90), and the rear was closed by a great number of gentlemen on horseback. On the procession entering on the bridge, by a precaution which was afterwards proved to have been unnecessary, the carriages passed over at a considerable distance asunder; and when the carriage of the rector of Ryton (the Rev. Charles Thorp), approached the centre, it was stopped, and the blessing of Heaven on that bold and important work of man was most reverently and feelingly invoked by that reverend and respected individual. Previous to its entrance on the bridge, the procession was joined by Charles J. Clavering, esq., the high sheriff of the county of Durham, who escorted and accompanied it on horseback during its progress through his county. From the bridge the procession moved up the road to Blaydon, about a mile distance, then returned by the old turnpike road to Swalwell, from whence it again returned to the suspension bridge, which it again passed over in closer order than before. But the strength of the bridge was soon after put to a much severer test, for as soon as the procession had passed over (no person being allowed to go on until the procession had returned) the gates being opened, the crowds of people who had been previously assembled at each end, rushed, with thoughtless impetuosity, on to the bridge, in the centre of which they were soon collected into so dense a mass as to be incapable of moving, and putting the bridge to a severe trial. No fewer than 3,000 persons were collected between the points of suspension, making, with those on the ends, a crowd of between 5,000 and 6,000 persons. After repassing the bridge, the procession returned in the same order to the Assembly-rooms, where it arrived about four o'clock, amidst the ringing of bells and other demonstrations of rejoicings. Soon after five o'clock, the committee, subscribers, and other friends of the undertaking sat down to an elegant dinner, and spent the evening with the utmost conviviality. Many appropriate toasts were drunk. During the evening Mr. Hodgson, on behalf of the proprietors, presented the architect, Mr. Green, with an elegantly formed silver claret jug, on which was engraven

* Mr. John Mowbray, merchant-adventurer, and boothman, had this day, previous to the procession, been elected sword-bearer of the corporation of Newcastle, in the room of Mr. John Bradshaw, who died very suddenly on the morning of the 4th of April, 1831.

a view of the bridge, and an appropriate inscription.* The bridge is 630 feet in length, the distance between the two points of suspension being 370 feet, with two half arcs of 230 feet each; the road-way rises in the centre about eight feet, causing the bridge to assume a curve line of a graceful and pleasing effect; the road-way is above 20 feet, and the carriage-way seventeen and a-half feet. July 21st, 1829, the first freight of stones for the masonry of this bridge was conveyed from Lawson-main quarry in a keel which was highly decorated with colours; and immediately on being delivered, the first stone in the footings of the land abutments on the south side was placed on its bed, under the direction of the architect, and in the presence of Messrs. Grace and Ramsay, two of the committee of the undertaking. Messrs. Welsh and Son were the contractors for the mason work. The coffer dam of the north pier was commenced in September the same year, and the foundation stone laid on the 9th of February, 1830. The first chain was suspended across the river on the 23d of February, 1831, and the last (the fourth), on the 5th of March.

1831 (*April* 14).—An elegant silver tripod candelabrum, value 150 guineas, with branches for the lights, richly chased, was presented by the parishioners of Gateshead, to the Rev. John Collinson, rector of that parish; one of the sides of the base is embellished with a shield, bearing the arms of the parish in bas relief, another of the sides has a shield, bearing the arms of Mr. Collinson, impaled with those of King (the family name of his wife), also in bas relief, and, on the other side, the following inscription is engraved:—“Presented to the Rev. John Collinson, A. M., rector of the parish of Gateshead, in the county of Durham, by his parishioners, as a token of their sincere and affectionate regard, and of their sense of his virtue and benevolence; and also as a testimonial of his conduct, by the zealous and assiduous discharge of his duties as their minister, for the period of 21 years.” On the day of the presentation Mr. Collinson had been 21 years rector of the parish of Gateshead. The presentation took place at a public dinner.

April 15.—Died, at Killingworth, near Newcastle, in the 86th year of her age, Mrs. Elizabeth Gascoigne. Though the great North road is not three miles distant from Killingworth, she never saw it in her life; she was the youngest of a large family, and died in the same part of the house and in the same bed in which she was born. She was the mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, to a numerous progeny. Upwards of one hundred years before, Mr. Nathaniel Punshon gave the cottage to her mother for her life.

April 18.—A body of from 1,200 to 1,500 pitmen visited the collieries in the neighbourhood of Blyth and Bedlington, where they laid the pits off work, threatening to set fire to them if their

* “Presented to John Green, architect, by the Scotswood Bridge Company, in testimony of their sense of the talent and skill displayed by him in designing and executing the bridge over the Tyne, at Scotswood, April 12th, 1831.”

orders were not complied with. At Bedlington Glebe pit they tore the corves to pieces, threw them into the shaft, and did considerable damage to the machinery; and at Netherton they were only prevented from committing similar acts of violence by being treated with a quantity of ale. They also emptied the larder and cellar of the manager of Cowpen colliery. On the following morning a large body of men went to Jesmond-dean colliery, near Newcastle, belonging to R. B. Sanderson, esq., where they did considerable injury to the machinery, throwing it down the pit, and endangering the lives of some workmen who were in the mine. On the Wear they had also been very violent, threatening to murder the horse-keepers if they went down the pit to attend the horses. A great number of special constables were sworn in to protect property, and the deputy-lieutenant issued an order for calling out the Northumberland and Newcastle Yeomanry. Part of the 82d regiment of foot, stationed at Sunderland barracks, marched from thence to the neighbourhood of Hetton, to remain there during the unsettled state of the workmen belonging to the collieries of that district. A detachment of eighty marines and three subalterns, under the command of Major Mitchell, sailed from Portsmouth for the Tyne, on account of the disturbances among the colliers. The vessel, towed by a steamer, sailed in less than an hour after the orders were received.

1831 (*April* 21.—A large meeting of the pitmen of the Tyne and Wear was held at Jarrow, which was attended by the men belonging to forty-nine collieries, each bearing a banner inscribed with the name of the colliery, and various mottoes. The meeting continued for a considerable time, and, after addresses from several speakers, who exhorted them all to conduct themselves orderly and keep the peace, they resolved unanimously to adhere to their former resolutions. The meeting then broke up, and the parties returned peaceably to their homes.

May 3.—Died, at Jarrow, Margaret Fenwick, in the 107th year of her age. She retained her faculties to the last. She was removed from Gateshead township to the Westgate, Newcastle, in the year 1774, and had received parish relief from that time to the period of her death (57 years), which amounted to no less a sum than £450.

May 4.—The right worshipful Archibald Reed, esq., mayor of Newcastle, gave an elegant entertainment at the mansion-house to Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., and John Hodgson, esq., the representatives of Newcastle, as a compliment to them, and commemorative of their successful efforts in obtaining the repeal of that very obnoxious tax on the coal of the river Tyne, known by the name of “The Richmond Shilling.” Exclusively of the members of the common council, a large party of gentlemen were invited (between seventy and eighty were present) to celebrate the day; amongst whom were, on the right and left of the chair respectively—Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., M. P., and John Hodgson, esq., M. P., Sir William Dickson, bart., the high sheriff for North-

umberland (George Silvertop, esq.), Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, esq., Lieut.-Col. Bell, and ten officers of the Northumberland Yeomanry cavalry, Aldermen Cramlington, Forster, Sorsbie, Bell, and Wright, the sheriff of Newcastle, the Rev. Ralph Brandling, R. Burdon Sanderson, esq., Matthew White Ridley, esq., Christ. Cookson, esq. (recorder of Newcastle), John Clayton, esq. (town clerk of Newcastle), Captains Innes and Pitts, R. N., &c. The repast was altogether of the first order, and included a magnificent dessert, with the finest flavoured ices, West Indian conserves, wines, &c. &c. In the course of the evening several appropriate and interesting addresses were elicited by the toasts, particularly that which was made by Sir M. W. Ridley, in which the hon. baronet described the unwearied devotedness of his late colleague (Mr. Ellison) and himself to obtain from all former administrations, during the preceding twenty years, the repeal of that unjust and oppressive tax the abolition of which they were that day met to celebrate, at a superb banquet. Nothing could exceed the hilarity and good humour which animated all parties; and shortly after ten o'clock the company separated, highly gratified with the splendid hospitality of the worthy chief magistrate.—*For an account of the Richmond Shilling see February 22, page 289.*

1831 (*May 5.*)—A very large meeting of the pitmen of the Tyne and the Wear, took place at the Black Fell, near Chester-le-street, in the county of Durham, where they were met by the marquis of Londonderry, accompanied by a military escort. His lordship addressed the men at considerable length, requesting them to disperse, and he would meet their delegates at Newcastle, which they immediately acceded to. A meeting in consequence took place at the Coal Trade office, Westgate-street, in Newcastle, but without the desired effect. Another meeting took place on the following day, but they still held out against the terms offered them by the owners, and the collieries (with the exception of two or three which had been partially at work for a few days under the protection of the military), were laid completely idle. From the long strike of the pitmen the want of coals at this time was very severely felt by the manufacturers and inhabitants of the different towns. For some time detachments of regulars, horse and foot, assisted by parties of Col. Bell's cavalry and dismounted troop, were stationed in the neighbourhood of Wallsend; sentries constantly patrolled at certain places for the protection of the engines and premises, and the men who were at work; during the night, squadrons of cavalry scoured the country in various directions, as the idle men were at this time showing a very turbulent disposition, and rather than accede to the terms offered, many of them with their wives and children were wandering about Northumberland and Durham begging.

May 12.—The annual customary perambulation of the river Tyne was performed by the right worshipful Archibald Reed, esq., mayor of Newcastle, the river jury, and other members of the corporate body. The day was remarkably fine, and, on returning to the mansion-house from Shields, between one and two o'clock in

the afternoon, the scene on the river was animated and enlivening ; every mark of respect being at all times paid to this kind and well-intentioned magistrate. The Swan steam-boat, containing the stewards of the incorporated companies, was tastefully decorated, and had the following words painted on its paddle cases, viz. :—“ ARCHIBALD REED ESQR'S. FIFTH MAYORALTY.” It likewise bore the two flags which had been presented to the stewards by the representatives of the town, to be used on this occasion. After the parties had partaken of some refreshment at the hospitable mansion of the chief magistrate, they set out for Hedwin Streams and returned to Newcastle at nine o'clock in the evening, after spending the afternoon in festive commemoration of this ancient and favourite custom. Horse racing and other amusements took place on the island, called the King's Meadows, on that and the preceding day.

1831 (*May 16*).—There was likely to be a serious riot at South Shields colliery, in consequence of an attempt to prevent the bound men from going to their work, which was only put down by the timely interference of Mr. Fairles, a magistrate of the place, and a party of marines. The next morning, an immense number of pitmen congregated at Hebburn colliery, and threw down the shaft all the corves, rolleys, and loose materials, to the great terror of the men below. Further damage was prevented by the appearance of the military. Four troops of Col. Bell's cavalry were dismissed, in consequence of the arrival at Newcastle of two troops of the 3d dragoons. About the middle of June, the pitmen generally resumed their labours.

May 20.—As a coble containing six pilots was going out of Sunderland harbour to a light vessel in the offing, it was struck by a heavy sea and upset, and five of the men, viz. :—James Jones, Abraham Jones, John Wardle, William Brown, and Robert Appleby, were drowned. The individual saved was washed near the north pier, from whence a line was thrown, and he was hauled upon the quay. Three of the bodies, with the father of James Jones' widow, who died on the same day the accident happened, were interred on the Wednesday following. They were all carried in one funeral procession, which deeply affected the vast concourse of spectators.

May 27.—Was opened the large tomb in the Galilee of Durham cathedral, in which such of the bones of the venerable Bede, as were in possession of the monks of Durham, were buried at the reformation. There were present, William Stephen Gilly, M. A., sub-dean ; Thomas Gisborne, M. A., residentiary ; James Raine, M. A., librarian ; William Jopling, mason ; Francis Bulmer ; Geo. Heron ; Ralph Stockley ; Robert Carr ; and Henry Carr. Two thin copper coins of the Hanseatic towns, (or, as they are generally denominated, abbey pieces,) were found in the soil near the surface ; and below, at the depth of about three feet, disposed in a grave of nearly six feet in length, the following human bones, viz. ;—The palvarium, tolerably perfect, consisting of the os frontis and ossa parietalia ; the ossa temporalia and portions of the bones of

the basis of the skull; the lower jaw bone, containing no teeth, their sockets ossified, affording the idea of an aged person; a portion of two malar bones; the heads of both the humeri; the radius and ulna of one fore arm, the os humeri of the other; eight bones of the tarsi of the feet; a portion of the sternum; the thigh bones. Each of these bones was found exactly in the relative position it would have occupied if the body had been entire. Some portions of decayed wood and moist soft dust appeared along the whole length of the grave, remains apparently of the coffin in which the bones had been placed. A large thumb ring of iron covered with a thick coating of gold was discovered in the place which the right hand would have occupied had it been there. It appeared, however, to have been placed upon a bone, for which as it was too large, the intervening space had been filled up with coarse woollen cloth, portions of which remained. The device is a cinque foil. The ring is deposited in the library, along with the relics of St. Cuthbert, which were discovered May 17th, 1827, *which see*. After a cast had been made of the skull, which was of a very strange formation, the bones were carefully deposited in a strong box of oak covered with lead, together with a record upon parchment of the above particulars, and were carefully re-interred, and the massive superincumbent altar tomb of blue marble was replaced on the following day. A while afterwards was cut in bold letters on the summit of the tomb, the old monkish verse:—

“HAC SVNT IN FOSSA BÆDÆ VENERABILIS OSSA.”

The cast of the skull is in the possession of the Rev. Mr. Raine, who has promised to give to the public a more detailed account of the discovery. For an account of the venerable Bede, *see May 29th, 735, vol. i., page 7.*

1831 (*May 28*).—The first number of a newspaper, entitled the “Sunderland Herald, Shields and Stockton Observer, and General Advertiser,” was published at Sunderland, by Thomas Marwood and Co. It is at present published by Thomas Marwood.

May.—This month, some workmen employed in taking down the premises in the High-bridge, Newcastle, formerly the poultry market, but latterly occupied as a soup kitchen, for the purpose of erecting a public house, in excavating the earth for the purpose of making a cellar, the remains of a Gothic arch was discovered, and amongst the rubbish some very large stones were found, and three fragments of dressed stone, which appeared to have formed part of a church or a chapel window. In corroboration of this, the workmen in the August following, whilst digging in order to form a conduit between the house and the common sewer, a part of a skull and several human bones were turned up, together with some pieces of wood, having the appearance of coffin-wood in decay.

June 2.—The foundation stone of a new chapel was laid at Usworth, intended as a chapel of ease to the parish church of Washington, in the county of Durham. For this undertaking the public were indebted to the laudable exertions of the rector, the Rev. H. Percival, and a few of the principal proprietors of that

parish, and a piece of ground for the site of the church and church yard, was presented by Lord Ravensworth and partners. The style of architecture is that of the early pointed Gothic, and is from a design of Mr. Green, architect, of Newcastle, who conducted the work.

1831 (*June 13*).—The Rev. John Hodgson, vicar of Kirkwhelpington, and author of the *History of Northumberland, &c. &c.*, under the direction of the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle, on this and the three following days, had a considerable number of workmen employed in dis-interring the remains of several curious Roman buildings at the famous ancient Roman city of *Borcovicus* or *House Steads* on the line of the Roman wall in Northumberland. George Gibson, of Redesmouth, esq., owner of the place; the Rev. James Raine, of Durham; the Rev. Anthony Hedley, of Whitfield; Mr. Jefferson, of Hexham; Mr. Thomas Hodgson (Newcastle), and Mr. R. W. Hodgson, were also present during part of the time the excavations were carrying on. These researches laid open the southern gate-way of the fortifications of the place; two granaries and kilns contiguous to each of them for drying corn; and a very perfect Hypocaustum for heating the water of a tank, either for the purpose of a Sudatory or a kitchen.

June 14.—The foundation stone of an addition to the parish church of Hurworth upon Tees, was laid by James N. Collyer, esq., and also on the same day, the first stone was laid by Mrs. Hartley, of a National school for 150 female children, which ceremonies were accompanied by appropriate prayers by the Rev. John Greenside, curate of Hurworth, and a suitable and feeling address to the children of the place, by Mr. Collyer.

June 20.—At the Canongate Court-room, Edinburgh, Thomas Drummond, of Biddick, in the county of Durham, grandson and heir male of the body of James, sixth earl of Perth, commonly called the “duke of Perth,” was, by a respectable jury, unanimously served nearest and lawful heir male of his deceased great grand uncle, Lord Edward Drummond, who took upon him the title of earl of Perth, and who was the youngest and last surviving son, and last heir male of the body of James, the fourth earl of Perth. The circumstances connected with this claim were said to be of the most interesting nature. *See April 28th, 1830.*

June 22.—In the evening, the foundation stone of the new building of the Alnwick Scientific and Mechanical Institution was laid in the Green Bat, in that town, with great ceremony. Upwards of sixty of the members and their friends assembled at the Star inn, at six o'clock, and marched in procession through the principal streets to the site of the building. The procession was preceded by a band of music and the flags of the free shoemakers and butchers, and a tri-coloured union flag. Mr. George Tate, one of the members read a paper respecting the institution and its projected building, after which the paper, along with a few annual reports, and a catalogue of books then in the library, were deposited in the foundation stone. John Lambert, esq., who presented

the society with the site for the building, laid the foundation stone ; after which Mr. Lambert addressed the assembly at considerable length, pointing out the advantages to be derived by the members individually, and the moral and political good resulting to the community from such institutions. The procession headed by the music and the banners then returned to the Star inn. The same evening the event was further celebrated by an economical public supper in the town-hall, John Carr, esq., of Bondgate-hall, in the chair. Upwards of ninety members and friends attended, when many loyal and appropriate healths were drunk. *See November 18th 1824, page 180.*

1831 (*June 23*).—Died, at Edinburgh, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health, aged 63 years, Mr. Edward Walker, printer and proprietor of the Newcastle Courant. The following character of Mr. Walker is given in the above journal of July 2d, 1831 :—
“As the conductor of a periodical journal, he was impartial and sincere. Founding his judgment upon facts alone, he carefully selected them from the mass of detail that weekly came before him, and left his readers to form their own conclusions. A spirit of theory, or of speculation, was alike foreign to his character. His mind was single, and his purpose plain,—the benefit of his fellow-townsmen, and of the real interests of his country, being the ruling objects of his editorial career. He conducted this paper through an eventful period of thirty-five years ; and even his political opponents will allow that he did so, steadily, perseveringly, and, to the best of his judgment, for the public good. In private life he was sincerely and deservedly respected ; and his good-feeling towards many of the benevolent institutions of the town, will be best appreciated by those who have been deprived of his assistance.”
Mr. Charles Henry Cook, executor of the late Mr. Edward Walker, published his first paper, No. 8163; on the 9th of July, 1831, by whom it is continued. Mr. Walker, after having purchased the property of the Newcastle Courant office, published his first paper February the 20th, 1796. This is the oldest established journal in the north. *See August 1st, 1711, vol. i. page 132.*

June.—The foundation stone of the Royal Arcade, in Pilgrim street, Newcastle, was laid. This when finished will be a most extensive and magnificent building. It was projected and built by Mr. Richard Grainger, to whom Newcastle is much indebted for the various improvements already made by that enterprising builder. The Leazes-terrace and the Leazes-crescent, Blackett-street, Eldon-square, &c. &c., owe their origin to Mr. Grainger. These are most healthy and pleasant situations.

July 3.—The poor-house at Easington, in the county of Durham, was set on fire by lightning. A little girl was killed and two other children were struck by the electric fluid, but were not seriously hurt. A man was so severely injured, that he was not expected to recover. The house received trifling damage, as the flames were speedily got under.

Same day, the “City of Edinburgh,” steam-packet, then sailing between Newcastle and London, with goods and passengers, left

the former place on the above day (Sunday), at nine o'clock in the evening, arrived in London at four o'clock on the Tuesday afternoon, delivered her cargo, took in another, left London at eleven o'clock the same evening, and arrived at Shields at three o'clock on the Thursday afternoon, performing the voyage from Shields to London and back, in six hours within the four days! being a dispatch unprecedented in sea travelling.

1831 (*July 4*).—The first stone of a new chapel at Benwell High-cross, near Newcastle, was laid by the Rev. John Dodd, vicar of Newcastle, in the presence of the committee, and a considerable concourse of spectators. There was formerly a chapel near the old mansion-house adjoining the village of Benwell, but which has long since ceased to exist. *See October 12th, page 63.*

July 7.—The new and elegant chain bridge over the river Tees, at Whorlton, about three miles below Barnardcastle, erected from the designs and under the direction of Mr. Green, architect, of Newcastle, was opened for public use by a procession, consisting of a band of music, the architect, and the committee of management (Archdeacon Headlam, Thomas Harrison, esq., Captain Dinsdale, the Rev. William Potts, T. Wheldon, esq., and Cornelius Harrison, esq.), on horseback, followed by a train of twenty-seven carriages, and a very numerous assemblage of spectators on horseback and on foot. The procession moved from Whorlton, along the bridge to Thorpe, the seat of Colonel Craddock, and returned along the bridge again to Whorlton, when after giving three times three cheers for the completion of the undertaking, and “*God save the King*” from the band, the party separated. A number of gentlemen afterwards dined at the inn at Greta-bridge, Archdeacon Headlam, in the chair. Messrs. Welsh, of Gateshead, were the builders. The foundation of the north pier was laid August 19th, 1830. The main chains were thrown over the piers, and safely moored into the rock on each side, April 1st, 1831. The span between the points of suspension is 180 feet. *See June 9th, 1829, page 254.*

July 9.—An explosion of hydrogen gas took place in the King pit, near Wreckenton, belonging to the owners of Birtley iron works, by which two overmen named John Dakers and John Boggon, and a boy, lost their lives. Happily the workmen had not all descended the pit at the time, or the loss would have been great. It was supposed to have been occasioned by a door having been left open in the mine.

July 11.—Dr. Bedale, the celebrated swimmer, having announced that on this day he would swim from Shields to Newcastle, the bridge at the latter place and the banks of the river Tyne, were crowded with persons till the time of high water. The doctor, however, did not make the attempt, in consequence of the impediment he experienced from the number of boats by which he was surrounded; he therefore, desisted, after swimming a short way. On the following day (Tuesday), however, he swam from the Ouseburn to Scotswood-bridge, a distance of about five miles,

and certainly displayed great skill both in floating and swimming. On the 9th, he exhibited his skill in the river Wear, at Durham, and on the 14th, he displayed his powers in a similar way at Sunderland.

1831 (*July 22*).—For some time the seamen of the port of Newcastle had demanded, and received in many instances, an advance of wages from £3. to £4. on the London voyage. This advance induced numbers of men to leave their ships at London, Hull, and other places, to return home, thus causing an influx of hands to a much greater extent than could possibly be employed, and many consented to work for less than £4. rather than be idle. The remainder, however, appeared to be determined that none should go under the increased rate, and adopted a system of unjustifiable intimidation. On the above day, two men were ill-treated in South Shields, for having sailed for under wages, and for some days vessels were boarded on their proceeding to sea, and their crews threatened with punishment if they did not leave their ships. July 26th, the *Atlas* was boarded by a number of men, who demanded the articles, and being refused, attempted to stop the vessel. Assistance was immediately sent from his H. M. S. *Orestes*, and sixteen of them were taken on board that vessel, and next day sent under guard to Newcastle, for examination, when they were held to bail for their appearance at the next sessions.

July 25.—The first coals were shipped at Port Seaham, in a fine brig, the property of John Buddle, esq., called the *Lord Seaham*, which was towed out by two steam-boats about four o'clock, amidst the firing of cannon and the cheering of about five thousand people. The marquess of Londonderry with Mr. Buddle and several other gentlemen, were on the pier to witness the ceremony, and the attendance of fifteen steam vessels from Newcastle, Sunderland, Stockton, &c., crowded with passengers, rendered it a very gay and interesting scene.

July 27.—"Mr. Dunbar's exhibition of the works of Foreign and British Sculptors," at No. 2, Oxford-street, New Bridge-street, Newcastle, was opened to the public. It contained upwards of one hundred and fifty specimens in marble, bronze, alabaster, ivory, terracotta, &c., in addition to the celebrated group of the graces by Canova, the *Venus de Medicis*, *Terpsichore*, the *Lansdown Venus*, and a colossal statue of his majesty, king William the Fourth. Also a figure of the well-known eccentric character, William Purvis, better known by the name of Blind Willie, now 80 years of age, who was baptized at All Saints' church, in Newcastle, on the 16th of February, 1752, and is the son of John Purvis, waterman. For an account of this eccentric, see *February 7th*, 1819, page 118.

This month, died, at Cantsmill, near Elsdon, in Northumberland, Mr. Robert Bolam, aged 100 years.

July 29.—About half-past two o'clock on the morning, a bake-house belonging to Mr. Scott, in Grindon Chare, on the Quay, Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire by some pitmen going to

work. In a few minutes after, the flames burst out in every part of the building. In a short time the engines of the Newcastle, Sun, and North British fire-offices, and the engines from the barracks arrived, and by the skill with which they were applied under the direction of various individuals, the surrounding houses were preserved. The police officers and the military rendered most important assistance in extinguishing the fire, and in preserving the goods from plunder and devastation. The premises consumed, were, a bake-house, a barber's shop, the shop of Mr. Laing, hosier, the shop of Mr. Gisburne, stationer, Mr. Scott's fruit lofts, and Mr. Frost's office. The roof of Mr. Robert Oliver, the draper's house, part of his furniture and books, and the roof of Messrs. Mackey and Smith's, drapers house, were also burnt. The drapery goods of Messrs. Mackey and Smith were partly injured by the water; and the hosiery of Mr. Laing, and the stationery of Mr. Gisburne also suffered in the removal. The public-house of Mr. Teasdale also suffered by the fire. The property of Messrs. Oliver, Mackey and Smith, and Gisburne, were partly insured. The premises were not insured. The morning was fortunately calm, or great havoc might have been made among the shipping. This conflagration laid bare a part of what had been originally the chapel of St. John of Jerusalem. *See May 1829, page 252.*

1831 (*July 29*).—The foundation stone of a new church was laid at North Sunderland, by one of Lord Crewe's trustees. Owing to the increase of the population, the accommodation given to the fisheries off that coast, the improvement of the harbour, and the quantity of lime and corn sent from thence, North Sunderland has become of much consequence to the county.

July 31.—Died, in St. John's poor-house, in Newcastle, aged 68 years, William Scott, better known by the name of *Cull Billy*, one of the eccentric characters of that town, and though subject to general aberration of mind, yet he often astonished persons by his shrewd answers to questions when put to him. When I first knew Billy, he lived with his mother, a poor old woman, in the Pudding Chare, Newcastle, who gained a livelihood by selling wooden and earthen ware. His mother, who was only four feet in height, was almost as great an object of pity as her son. Being the widow of a free burgess, she and her daughter were admitted inmates of the hospital for the widows of decayed merchants, in the Manor Chare, where she died, and her daughter was afterwards found burnt to death in her apartment. Billy during the early part of the war with France, when troops were constantly stationed in Newcastle, used to precede the drums as they paraded daily through the streets, taking his station in advance of the drum-major, with a besom shank for his *staff*. He used also at this time to preach in the streets to large audiences of boys, &c., who generally repaid his *good advice* with showers of stones, mud, &c., and as soon as he left his stand, the boys followed him around the streets, beating and hooting him, as they would have done a cat or a dog. Being perfectly harmless (unless raised to madness by ill usage), his forlorn

and pitiable condition aroused on his behalf a very able defender, who, under the signature of J. S., in the Newcastle Chronicle, of the 28th of August, 1802, appealed to the public in the following pathetic strain:—

“ Whence those *cries* my soul that harrow ?
 Whence those *yells* that wound my ear ?
 'Tis the hapless child of sorrow !
 'Tis poor Billy's plaint I hear.
 Now in *tatter'd plight* I see him,
 Teazing crowds around him press ;
 Ah ! will none from insult free him ?
 None his injuries redress ?
 Fill'd with many a fearful notion,
 Now he utters piercing cries ;
 Starting now with sudden motion,
 Swiftly through the streets he *hies*.
 Poor, forlorn and hapless creature,
 Victim of insanity ;
 Sure it speaks a ruthless nature,
 To oppress a wretch like thee.
 When by generous friends protected,
 All thy actions told thee mild,
 Tho' by *reason* undirected,
 And the prey of fancies wild.
 Of those friends did heaven deprive thee,
 None alas ! supply'd their place !
 And to madness now to drive thee,
 Ceaseless strives a cruel race.
 Youth forlorn ! tho' crowds deride thee,
 Gentle minds for thee must grieve ;
 Back to *reason* wish to guide thee,
 And thy ev'ry want relieve.
 O from this sad state to snatch thee,
 Why delay the *good* and *kind* ?
 Pity calls on them to watch thee,
 And to tranquillize thy mind.”

Soon after the publication of this appeal, the compassion of the overseers of St. John's parish (wherein Billy resided) was excited, and he was taken into the poor-house, where he was kept confined until the turbulence of his spirit was reduced, and here he remained until his death. It is said that in his juvenile years every endeavour had been made to give him a good education, but without the desired effect ; however his shrewd preaching, repeating certain prayers, which he did in a clear and distinct manner, and his being able to write, shew that he had acquired some instruction. The following is a copy *verbatim* of one of his promissory notes, in the possession of Mr. G. A. Brumell:—“ I Promise to Pay Mr, George, Atley Brumell, or Bearer, Thee Sum, of one Pound, or you may, Pay it to me, William Scott, Saint Johns, Parish House 30 Day September.” This was written in the year 1825. Having a particular aversion to the title of poor-house, he always designated it the Parish House. The following copy of an advertisement, dated

June 23rd, 1770, was from the father of this eccentric:—"WILLIAM SCOTT, Joiner and Cabinet-maker, late at the Head of the Side, Newcastle, takes this method of acquainting his friends and the public, that he is removed to a new house, near Mr. Dagnia's at the Forth, where he continues to carry on the House Carpenter and Joiner Business in all its branches, and likewise makes all sorts of Household Furniture of Mahogany, Walnut-tree, Wainscot, Beech, &c. He returns his sincere thanks to his friends for past favours, and promises to all who please to employ him, to do their business as well and as reasonable as can be afforded. Orders will be punctually executed and gratefully acknowledged." A portrait of this eccentric may be had of John Sykes.

1831 (*Aug. 1*).—A new colliery at Walldridge Fell, belonging to Messrs. Sowerby and Co., was opened for the vend of coals. A great number of the inhabitants of Chester-le-Street and the neighbourhood assembled on the occasion. Shortly after twelve o'clock, the first waggon load of coals was drawn off amid the loud cheers of the populace, accompanied by a full band of music. The extent of the railway from the colliery to the river Tyne was nearly eleven miles. A party of gentlemen afterwards dined together at the Lambton Arms, in Chester-le-Street, in celebration of the event, and the workmen were also regaled with roast beef and plumb pudding, ale, &c. For a most daring outrage done to this colliery, see *December 24th*, 1831.

August 4.—The first number of a weekly paper entitled "The Albion; or Shields, Newcastle, Sunderland, and Durham Weekly Advertiser," was printed and published at South Shields, by B. G. Sharp and Co., and given *gratis*. It contained nothing but advertisements. This was the only number that appeared.

August 13.—The colliers of the Tyne and the Wear, to the number of 10,000 or 12,000, met at Boldon Fell, in the county of Durham. During the forenoon the roads in the vicinity presented an unusual bustle, the men walking in procession from the different collieries, bearing flags and banners, and in two or three instances attended by bands of music. The banners were numerous and of the gayest description, nearly all being embellished with a painted design, or with a motto more or less connected with the recent struggle of the pitmen and their employers. The object of the meeting was to get up an address to his majesty, thanking him for his beneficent attention to the wants of his people, for the reform bill, and for the support he had given to his ministers. About twelve o'clock, the speakers, who consisted of a few of the delegates from each colliery, mounted a cart, and proceeded to the business of the day. Thomas Hepburn first presented himself, and recommended order, sobriety, and attention to their religious duties, as the best means they could adopt to preserve the advantages they had gained, and to keep up in the public mind that favourable feeling which had been so generally elicited towards them during the strike. He was followed in a similar strain by Robert Arkle, Charles Parkinson, B. Pile, and R. Atkinson, the latter of whom recommended

that Hepburn (one of the most active promoters and sustainers of the strike) should be appointed by the Union of the trade, and be maintained by the same body, to visit the different collieries, and enforce the rules of the union, the necessity of good conduct, and the duty of attention to the education of the younger branches of their families. The several addresses were patiently listened to, and loudly applauded; they were delivered with peculiar fervour, and when touching on the results of the strike, and the steps necessary to be taken in consequence, they exhibited considerable acuteness as to the course of conduct which could alone preserve to them the advantages they had acquired, and render them deserving of them. The topic least commented on was that which they had met chiefly to discuss. They had no resolutions prepared respecting it—no address to his majesty to lay before the meeting. It was at length resolved, however, that the delegates should meet that day week and prepare one; and that, in the mean time, the signatures of the workmen at each colliery should be procured for the purpose of affixing them to it. Thanks having been voted to the public for their sympathy, and to the king and his excellent ministers, particularly to Lords Grey, Brougham, and Durham, the bands were ordered to strike up the national anthem, which they did very effectively, amidst tremendous cheering. The immense assemblage then dispersed in a similar order to that in which they arrived.

1831 (*Aug.* 16).—On this day (Tuesday), the first number of a newspaper entitled “The Northumberland Advertiser, and Agricultural, Shipping, and Commercial Journal,” was printed and published at North Shields by William Fordyce.

August 18.—Died, in Pandon, Newcastle, aged 106 years, Hugh Smith, commonly known by the appellation of *Blue Brecks*; he went about in his usual health till within a short time of his death.

August 25.—The address agreed to at the meeting of pitmen on Boldon Fell, was dispatched on the evening of this day (Thursday), to Lord Melbourne for presentation to his majesty, after having received 11,561 signatures from the workmen employed at 57 collieries on the rivers Tyne and Wear.

August 30.—Died, at the house of her son-in-law, at Washington Mill House, Durham, Mrs. Isabella Smith, in her 100th year.

August.—“The asylum for female Penitents, for Newcastle upon Tyne and its vicinity,” was established. A house was taken and entered upon in Villa Place, capable of receiving eight or ten inmates, and within six months it was full, and several applicants had been refused admission, very reluctantly, for want of room; this induced the committee to call (by circular, dated February, 1832,) upon the benevolent and humane public, to enable them to obtain a large house and an assistant matron. Mr. Brand, under the year 1763, says, “July 9th, mention occurs of a design in agitation, to establish an hospital in Newcastle for the reception of

penitent prostitutes."* The late alderman, Hugh Hornby, esq., in his notes to Brand's History, says, "This was only a jest, originating at a tavern among some persons of a bacchanalian disposition."

1831 (*Sept. 3*).—In the evening a new Methodist chapel was opened in Park-street, Darlington, by the Rev. Jabez Bunting, M. A., the chapel previously in use, though very commodious, having proved too small for the great increase of the members of that society in Darlington and the neighbourhood.

September 5.—Whilst a man named Walker, banksman at Elvet colliery, near Durham, was laying hold of a corf of coals which had been drawn to the mouth of the shaft, he was nearly precipitated to the bottom owing to the mismanagement of the individual who attended, inasmuch as he lowered the corf instead of raising it, which caused Walker to fall with his head downwards, and falling with his hands in the corf, whilst his feet were caught by some projection at the side of the shaft; he remained in this position until a person, not far from the spot, came and rescued him, by drawing him up by the feet. The poor fellow when placed safe, was so sensible of the dangerous situation he had been in, that he burst into tears.

September 6.—Died, at his house in Anderson-place, Newcastle, George Anderson, esq., F. S. A., formerly major of the 34th regiment of foot, and a deputy-lieutenant and magistrate of the county of Northumberland, in the 71st year of his age. Major Anderson was very liberal to various of the public institutions of Newcastle; he presented a valuable painting to the parish of St. Andrew, which is placed over the altar table of that church (*see page 24*), he also contributed liberally towards the building of the new chapel of St. Thomas at the Barras-bridge (*see October 19th, 1830*), and by will left the following bequests:—to the church of St. Andrew £100 to repair and ornament the tower, and a further bequest of £400 to erect a spire 100 feet high, if the tower shall be found capable of bearing it, his wish being that it may be visible from Durham, and be an ornament to the town. He also left to St. John's church £200, to raise a spire 50 feet high on the tower thereof, with his arms engraven thereon; and £500 to St. Nicholas' church for the purpose of obtaining a large bell to strike the hours upon, all of which bequests to be null and void if not complied with in the course of three years from his death. He was interred in St. Nicholas' church; his funeral was attended by a great number of gentry and a long train of carriages. A short account of Anderson-place may perhaps be interesting:—It was built in the year 1580 by Robert Anderson, merchant, out of the offices and nearly upon the site of the Franciscan Friary. It was in this house that King Charles I. was kept a prisoner whilst in Newcastle. *See vol. i. page 100.* Sir Francis Anderson, knt., in

* Brand's History of Newcastle, vol. ii. page 540.

the year 1675 conveyed it to Sir William Blackett, bart., who added the two wings without preserving the style and uniformity of the original building. It afterwards came into the possession of Sir Walter Blackett, bart., M. P. for Newcastle, by his marriage with Sir William's grand-daughter. Sir Walter Blackett, who died in 1777, kept an almost princely establishment here. *See February 14, 1777, vol. i. page 309.* After Sir Walter's death it was first offered to the corporation of Newcastle, but refused! After this, in the year 1782, Sir Thomas Blackett, called upon Mr. George Anderson, an opulent builder,* who instantly closed the purchase. His son, the late Major Anderson, styled it Anderson-place, it having been, at two distant periods, in the possession of different families of the same name. It at present forms three distinct houses. I possess a *scarce*, large, and curious bird's-eye view of this building, drawn by Knyff, and engraved by Kyp, entitled "The Seat of the Honble. Sr. Wm. Blackett, Bartt., with part of the Town of Newcastle upon Tyne." The arms of Blackett, impaling Conyers.† What are now small dwelling-houses facing into Pilgrim-street, appear to have been at that time stabling and out-houses; the range of which, from High Friar-lane to Richmond-court, contains three gates and a door. Near the centre gate or principal entrance is shewn what was called Blackett's Pant. The other principal objects shewn in this print are Brigham's Alms-houses, forming the angle between Pilgrim-street and High Friar-street (*see the year 1534, vol. i. page 72*), Pilgrim-street gate and the town-wall, to and with Newgate, St. Andrew's church, St. John's church, and St. Nicholas' church, and the whole of the ground most beautifully laid out in gardens, &c., belonging to this princely mansion, the ground of which is said to have been more extensive than any other house in the kingdom within a walled town.

1831 (*Sept. 8*).—Being the day set apart for the celebration of the coronation of King William IV., and his illustrious consort, at Newcastle, the morning was ushered in with every mark of respect and joy. At an early hour the guns from the castle fired a royal salute, and the bells of the various churches rung merrily, and the

* The following is extracted from the books of the bricklayers' company:—
 "June 13, 1715.—George Anderson, son of 'Thomas Anderson, late of Benwell, Taylor, apprentice to George Stoddart by Inde. Dated 19th May 1715.

{ EDWD. JOHNSON, Esq. Mayor.

{ ROGER MATFEN, Esq. Sheriff."

† Sir William Blackett, bart., of Newcastle, Wallington, and Hexham Priory, married Julia, only daughter of Sir Christopher Conyers, of Horden, in the county of Durham. He was mayor of Newcastle in the years 1683 and 1698; governor of the Hoastmen's Company in the years 1684, 1691, and 1692; M. P. for Newscatle, from the year 1685 to his death, in the year 1705; created a baronet 23d January, 1684, high sheriff of Northumberland in the year 1689. He died in London, and was buried in St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, December 29th, 1705. The expense of his funeral was £688. 14s., one item of which sum was, "1,236 paire of colour'd double stiched gloves at 2s. per paire, or for as many as are used." He was the father of Sir William Blackett, bart., whose marriage and death is given in *vol. i. page 141.*

shops were very generally closed, all business being suspended. On the morning the corporate body of the town went in procession to St. Nicholas' church, and attended divine service ; an excellent and appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. John Dodd, vicar, from 1st Tim. chap. ii. verses 1 and 2. Dinners in honour of the coronation were held at various places in that town. His worship, Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, gave a grand dinner at the mansion-house ; the stewards of the incorporated companies dined at Mr. Taylor's, the George inn, in Pilgrim-street, which displayed a number of loyal flags during the day. The mayor and corporation, and the brethren of the Trinity-house, gave £20., to be contested for by six-oared boats on the river Tyne ; the contest to commence from the high end of Sandgate, and the boats were to proceed up the river, round the island called the King's Meadows, and back to the bridge. After a well-contested struggle, the race was won by the William Clayton, 1st., receiving £10., the Flying Fish, 2d., receiving £6. ; and the Robert Bell, 3d., receiving £4. Three other boats started, which came in as follows :—John Bowman 4th, the Tyne 5th, and the Calypso 6th. According to previous announcement, Mr. Green, the æronaut, ascended in his magnificent balloon from the Spital Field, amidst a great concourse of spectators. He was accompanied by Major Callender, and it was his 96th ascent.* The day was not the most favourable, being very heavy and inclined to wet. The balloon, however, rose from the earth in grand style, taking a direction nearly west, with an almost imperceptible motion. After remaining a considerable time in view, the balloon sunk behind a cloud, but it appeared again just like a speck, then disappeared, and was not again visible. After remaining about half an hour in the air, it descended upon the fine lawn in front of Close House, about eight miles from Newcastle, the seat of Mrs. Bewicke, to whose kind hospitality the æronauts were much indebted for her liberal supply of every sort of refreshment. It is worthy of remark, as a singular coincidence that this lady was returning home, after an absence of four months at her seat in the county of Durham, whilst the balloon was sailing over her head in the same direction, and just as her carriage drove up to her door the ærial travellers alighted upon the lawn in front of it. The balloon was packed up upon the spot and carried upon a gate by a party of men to the village of Heddon on the Wall, from whence it was conveyed in a cart back to Newcastle ; Mr. Green and Major Callender accompanied it on foot, and having, on their arrival, repaired by invitation to the mansion-house, they met with a very hearty and enthusiastic reception from the mayor and the very large party who were assembled to celebrate their majesties' coronation. The excellent arrangements of Mr. Green gave very general satisfaction. Mr. Green ascended again from Newcastle on the 12th and the 19th of September, *which see*. The dinner at the mansion-house was of the most splendid description ; at seven o'clock, about 200

* Messrs. Green had, in 1825, ascended four times from Newcastle. See page 184.

gentlemen (invited by card) sat down, in two apartments, the right worshipful the mayor, and alderman Cramlington, presiding in one room, supported by William Smith, esq., sheriff, and John Adamson, esq., under sheriff, as vice-presidents; and aldermen Forster and Bell presiding in the other room. On the removal of the cloth, the chairman called for a bumper, and said, he would trouble the meeting with only a few observations, but it was a pleasing reflection to consider how many of his majesty's subjects were at that moment celebrating his most gracious majesty's coronation. To his majesty he most devoutly wished prosperity and happiness; and trusted he would long reign over a free, happy, and united people; this toast was drunk with four times four cheers and very great applause; and was immediately followed by the band striking up the national anthem of "*God save the King*," and a royal salute fired from the castle. Many excellent and appropriate toasts were given and drunk with enthusiasm. The ball at the Assembly Rooms, in the evening, was most brilliantly attended; nearly 160 of the ladies and gentlemen in the neighbourhood being present, and the dancing was kept up with great spirit until a late hour. In the forenoon, the soldiers in the barracks, were reviewed by the commanding officer of the district, and fired a *feu de joie*. The inmates of the Freeman's hospitals were presented with 2s. and 6d. each, and the poor in the different parish workhouses were regaled with roast beef, plum pudding, and ale.

The Northern Political Union being determined on a public meeting this day, in order to move an address of thanks to his majesty for the reform bill, and also to adopt a petition to be presented to the House of Lords, began to assemble about ten o'clock, and proceeded in a body to the town-moor, whither hustings, erected on waggons, were drawn for the accomodation of the speakers. The procession was headed by a band of music, and various emblematical flags, (amongst which was a large tri-coloured one,) gave a novel character to the scene. The weather was rather inauspicious, and immediately before the commencement of the business, the assemblage, between 2,000 and 3,000, was visited by a heavy shower of rain. The preliminaries having been gone through, Mr John Fife (surgeon) moved that the chair be taken by Charles Attwood, esq. The motion was followed by loud cheers. Mr. Attwood said, it gave him great pleasure to preside at a meeting like the present. They met not now as reformers were wont to meet, amid peril, and obloquy and injustice, surrounded by danger, and even, at times, exposed to slaughter (hear and cheers). They could now congratulate each other on the attainment of an object which would secure their liberties, and establish the well being of the community. They were met to congratulate their king, to whom they owed the triumph of meeting in peace and joy, in hope and in safety, to press forward a cause, which, ere long must be successful (cheers). There was no danger now in granting reform, for the king and the people were in unison; the only danger now to be apprehended was from refusing it. To his

majesty they were indebted for this happy posture of affairs, and he (the chairman) could not but view the accession of that monarch, at this juncture, as a providential interference, and a token that the spirit and necessity of reform was no longer to be resisted or contended with. If they were, let their opponents beware of the volcanic elements by which they were surrounded, the mingling storm, and lightning, and earthquake, which would only terminate

“In fiery conflagration strong,
And many a sanguine stream !” (Loud cheers.)

Having called their attention to one part of the business of the day—the congratulation of his majesty on the thrice-happy occasion of his royal coronation, there was another part to which he must direct them, less grateful, perhaps, to their feelings, but certainly not less necessary to their interests, and that was to present a petition to the House of Lords, imploring them to promote the views of the king, the people, and the House of Commons, by passing the reform bill. After some further remarks, Mr. Attwood proceeded to observe, that the petition which would be submitted to their adoption had been taken great pains with, in its preparation, so as to make it worthy of a people who had a high interest in the boon they required, and at the same time to prove it in language befitting the station and privileges of a body to whom it was to be presented; he requested the meeting to hear all the speakers with the same attention they had so honourably accorded to him, to give every one a fair hearing, to decide fairly, and concluded by hoping that the event might be fortunate (cheers). The meeting was afterwards severally addressed by Mr. John Fife, Mr. A. L. Potter, Mr. T. H. Bell, of Alnwick, Mr. Joseph Watson, Mr. Charles Larkin, Mr. Eneas Mackenzie, senior,* Mr. Weatherston, Mr. Wilson, of Hexham, &c., after which an address to his majesty and the petition to the House of Lords were read and adopted.† The members of the Union and the friends of Reform then left the ground and proceeded to the dinner, provision for which had been previously made at one shilling and sixpence each, in a field behind Forthstreet (formerly called Blackett’s-field) and the town’s wall, belonging to Mr. Featherston, and shortly after one o’clock, between 1,500 and 1,600 sat down. The arrangements were very complete; four large tents were erected, each containing two rows of tables, well stored with roast and boiled beef, ham, and bread. A separate table was set apart for the chairman and the counsel of the union. On each side of the square, tents were placed for the purpose of supplying the company with ale or spirits at their own cost. Mr. Attwood again took the chair, and after dinner, proposed “*the health*

* Mr. Eneas Mackenzie died after a few hours’ illness on the 21st February, 1832, *which see*.

† The petition to the House of Lords was despatched to London on the 20th of September, 1831, with 30,734 signatures appended. It measured in length 157 yards.

of his majesty," in terms of warmth and affection which called forth repeated bursts of applause. After the toast was drunk, the cheering was tremendous; a salute was fired from some cannon in the neighbourhood, and the cheering was renewed for some time. The next toast was the "*Queen and the rest of the royal family*;" in giving which, the chairman paid a high compliment to the exalted virtues of her majesty. This toast was drunk with great applause. The chairman, after a neat preface, next gave "*The people, the only legitimate source of power*," drunk with immense cheering. Various other toasts were drunk, introduced by appropriate and effective remarks. During the dinner the balloon made its appearance as before stated, and had a grand effect, the place of ascension being only separated from this field by the town-wall. This immense number dined without the least disorder or inconvenience.

This being the fiftieth year since R. Raikes, esq., devised the plan of Sunday-school instruction, the committee of the Newcastle Sunday-school Union determined to hold a jubilee on the day of the coronation, in celebration of the event. On the morning at six o'clock, the teachers of the various schools met in Brunswick-place chapel, to crave the divine blessing upon themselves and their children. At ten o'clock the children and their teachers met in the same chapel where they were addressed by their ministers. In the afternoon nearly 2,000 children, and 300 teachers took tea together in their respective school-rooms, when most of them were presented with a beautiful jubilee card, containing a portrait of Mr. Raikes, and the jubilee hymn, "Blow ye the trumpet, blow," &c. (engraved by Mr. Collard, and supposed to be the first portrait on steel done in Newcastle). In the evening a special general meeting of the Union was held in St. James' chapel, Blakett-street, which was most numerously attended. The meeting was addressed by the chairman, John Fenwick, esq., Messrs. D. H. Wilson, J. Heaton, W. Cruikshanks, of the Temperance Society, T. Brunting, G. Sample, A. Reed, and J. F. Grant. The collection amounting to £7. 5s. 8d.

In Gateshead, the children and teachers assembled in the Wesleyan-chapel when addresses were given by Messrs. Sumner, Mortimer, and Cruikshanks; and in the afternoon the children partook of refreshments with their teachers. A numerous party of the most respectable inhabitants of Gateshead celebrated the coronation by a dinner at Mr. Kenmir's, the William the Fourth inn, at that place; George Hawks, esq., in the chair; Mr. J. Fairbairn, vice-president. After the cloth was removed, the chairman, in a neat and appropriate address, congratulated the company on the joyous cause of their assembling, after which he proposed, "The King, and may he long reign over a free, loyal, and united people," which was drunk with cheers and acclamations. A gentleman of the company then sung "God save the King," in the chorus to which he was enthusiastically joined by the company. This toast was followed by "The Queen," "The Princess Victoria" and the rest of the royal family. Many other loyal and local toasts were

drunk, and the company separated at a late hour. Another public dinner took place in Gateshead at Mrs. Calvert's, the Half Moon inn, by about twenty gentlemen, principally officers of Excise of Gateshead and its vicinity, Robert Coulson, esq., in the chair; Mr. James Thompson vice-president. A number of loyal and other appropriate toasts were drunk, and the evening was spent with great cheerfulness.

The coronation day having been appointed for laying the foundation stone of a new Episcopal chapel, at Hetton, in the county of Durham, the ceremony took place at twelve o'clock on that day. The stone marked "Will. IV. Sep. 8, 1831," being lowered down, it was arranged and adjusted according to masonic rule, by G. T. Fox, esq., of Durham, in the presence of several of the subscribers and inhabitants of Hetton; after which an appropriate address was delivered by the Rev. E. S. Thurlow, rector of Houghton-le-Spring, in which parish the chapel is situated. It is likely to be of great service in so populous a neighbourhood as Hetton, where there are not less than 5,000 to 6,000 mostly arisen from the establishment of the great collieries near it. The building funds arise from subscriptions of the late and present bishops of Durham, the dean and chapter, and Lord Crewe's trustees, and of sundry individuals interested in the success of the coal-mines, with grants in aid by the parliamentary commissions, and the church building society of London.

The coronation of their majesties was observed at Stockton, by the bells being rung merrily, and a display of flags from the Custom-house, Town-house, and numerous shipping in the harbour, the shops were closed, and the day was observed as a holiday. At seven o'clock on the morning, the bellman summoned the poor in the town to attend at the shambles, where Robert Lamb, esq., mayor, with his accustomed liberality and kind attention to the wants of his fellow-creatures, at his own expense, caused about 160 stones of beef to be distributed, and which was done to between 400 and 500 families. At four o'clock, the mayor, with a large party of gentlemen, dined at the Town-house; the dinner consisted of every delicacy the season could afford; several loyal and appropriate toasts were drunk, and the evening was spent with great conviviality.

The coronation of their majesties was observed with great respect at Darlington. The shops were all closed, the bells were rung during the whole of the day, a band of music paraded the streets, and three public dinners most respectably attended, were held, there being present the leading gentlemen and tradesmen of the town. The dinners reflected great credit on Mr. Losh, of the King's-head; Mr. Hird, of the Fleece; and Mr. Benson, of the Sun inn. Guns were fired in abundance, and a bonfire made at night; and the gas monument (which had recently been erected in the Market-place,) was lighted for the first time. The day passed over without any accident, and the town was partly illuminated at night.

A grand dinner party was held at the Londonderry-arms, Seaham harbour, to celebrate the coronation of their majesties.

A very magnificent display of Chinese fire-works took place at Barnardcastle, in honour of the coronation of their majesties. The display continued from eight o'clock till half-past eleven o'clock in the evening, and reflected great credit upon the ingenuity of Mr. T. Bell, the contriver and conductor of the exhibition.

At Sunderland, the 82d regiment, stationed at the barracks, fired a *feu de joie* in honour of the day, flags were displayed in various parts of the town, all business was suspended, cannons were fired and bells were rung. A large party of gentlemen dined at Kay's, the Golden Lion inn, Sir Cuthbert Sharp in the chair, and the poor in Sunderland workhouse were plenteously regaled with roast beef and plum pudding, with a sufficiency of ale. In the evening, the town was partly illuminated.

At South Shields, the festivities of the day were observed by the ringing of bells, firing of guns, &c. At eight o'clock on the morning, 500 poor families were supplied with 4lbs. of beef, and a loaf of bread each. A fat sheep was also distributed to the poor by Mr. John Oyston. At half-past ten o'clock, a grand concert was given in St. Hilda's chapel by the choral society, and a band, Mr. Ingham performing on the organ. At one o'clock, a general meeting of the inhabitants was held in the market-place, pursuant to public notice, when a loyal address to their majesties was read and agreed to amid great cheering. Nicholas Fairles, esq., was chairman, and Robert Ingham, esq., moved the address. At the conclusion of the address, the band commenced playing "God save the King," when the choral society and the assembled multitude joined in singing it. Flags were displayed from the ships in the harbour, as well as from many houses in the town; parties dined at the principal inns, the poor were also regaled with a dinner and ale at the workhouse, the sailors had a procession, and there was a display of fire works in the evening.

At North Shields, the coronation was celebrated with every demonstration of joy. The bells rung many merry peals, guns were fired from Clifford's-fort, and the ships in the harbour displayed a gay appearance, being all decorated with flags. To make the poor comfortable on this memorable occasion, a liberal subscription was entered into by the inhabitants, from the proceeds of which each poor family was supplied with bread, beef, and ale. £50. were given by the managers of the seamen's relief fund to be distributed to the scullermen in beef and bread. A large and respectable party dined at the George Tavern, when many loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk. The fish-women had also a dinner in their market on the New Quay, and got so merry, that they footed it "on the light fantastic toe" before parting.

At Howdon-dock, near North Shields, there was a distribution of five fat sheep, one hundred loaves, and a barrel of ale, among the poor inhabitants of that village.

The Harmonic society of Morpeth, held a concert of sacred

music, in the church of that town (*gratis*), to celebrate the coronation of their majesties (S. Fenwick, esq., presided at the organ), which was attended by a most numerous and respectable audience. The selection was principally from the works of Handel, Mason, &c. The coronation anthem was unanimously encored, and the performance was executed with great taste and precision, and reflected much credit on the society.

At Chester-le-street, the bells were rung merrily, and Mr. John Jackson, of South Shields, gave to twenty poor persons of the former place, one ounce of tea, one pound of sugar, and a cake each, to regale themselves on the occasion of the coronation.

On this auspicious day, great rejoicings took place at all the towns and most of the villages in Northumberland and Durham, indeed, one universal feeling, seemed to pervade the whole kingdom.

1831 (*Sept. 11*).—Being Sunday, the coronation of the king was celebrated with great solemnity at the Catholic chapel, in Newcastle. The Rev. Mr. Worswick, preached an eloquent and impressive sermon on the duty and obligation of loving one's country, after which he invoked the blessings of heaven on this beloved country, and its patriotic and reforming sovereign, and the coronation anthem was sung. The solemnities of the day concluded with the ceremony of benediction, and the performance of a grand *Te Deum* composed by Graun. Mr. Charles Miller presided at the organ, and several gentlemen of the choral society lent their assistance.

September 12.—Mr. Green and Major Callender ascended in the magnificent balloon of the former, a few minutes after three o'clock, from the yard of the gas company, in the Manors, Newcastle. The ascent was considered private, although thousands of people were assembled to witness it, and every place commanding a view of the yard was crowded. The balloon when disengaged, rose rapidly but steadily in a course towards the west; but when it gained a certain elevation, it seemed to remain motionless for a few minutes over the town, and then took a north-easterly direction. When at a considerable height, the aeronauts threw out a pigeon, which fell almost perpendicularly, until it reached a portion of the atmosphere sufficiently dense for buoyancy and the exercise of its wings. The balloon, after being about an hour in the air, descended at Low Gosforth, nearly three miles from Newcastle. The day was tolerably favourable; the clouds, though numerous, flying at a great height; and the grandeur of the spectacle was heightened at intervals by the sun breaking out from behind the clouds.

September 19.—Mr. Green made another ascent from the corporation yard, near the gas works, in the Manors, Newcastle. On this occasion, he was accompanied by Miss Oyston, daughter of Mr. Ambrose Oyston, brick manufacturer, of South Shields. An immense concourse of spectators were assembled to witness the ascent, both in the yard which was fitted up for the reception of

company, and on every house top and eminence which could command a sight of the balloon. The day was clear, but somewhat windy, which occasioned a little delay in the æronauts commencing their journey, but the interval was agreeably filled up by letting off several pilot balloons. As this was the first time that a female had ascended from Newcastle, the following account from Mr. Green may be interesting:—"Between the hours of two and three in the afternoon of Monday last, was the time announced for my ascent, at which period a sufficiency of gas was procured for that purpose; but from the force of the wind then prevailing, combined with a desire to fulfil my engagement to the letter of my announcement, I requested permission from the ladies and gentlemen who had done me the honour of witnessing the preparations, to wait some time after that set forth in my advertisements, at the same time informing them, that I had no doubt that in the course of a few minutes, there would be a sufficient lull of the wind to enable me to add to the sublimity of the ascent, which, in fact, was the case. I also informed them, that if it was in accordance with their wishes, I would immediately make the ascent, but from the cause named, decline being accompanied by a lady; on mentioning which, the company expressed themselves perfectly satisfied, and remained until twenty-five minutes past four, when my companion (Miss Oyston, of South Shields), took her seat in the car, and I released the balloon from the only remaining tie which confined it to the earth. On first rising, the balloon took north-west, a direction in which it continued about twelve minutes, when it encountered a slight current from the south-south-east; but, on allowing a small portion of gas to escape, which I was compelled to do from the sudden expansion thereof, it again met with the original current, and after gaining an altitude of nearly a mile and a half, and floating *thirty-five minutes*, I effected a landing with little or no inconvenience. It was my intention to have prolonged the excursion as far as Morpeth, but from the favourable state of the country over which we were hovering, I judged it imprudent so to do, more especially as the wind was then blowing strongly from the south-east, and the country we were approaching being thickly studded with trees, which would have rendered the descent much more inconvenient, and to a certain extent dangerous. My companion was much delighted with the novelty of her situation, and the beauty of the scenery presented to her, and continually expressed her astonishment at the comparative littleness of every object that met her eye. A few minutes after leaving the earth, I threw some pieces of paper from the car; and crossing a field of sheep, my companion directed my attention to the pieces of paper, which she stated she could distinctly see on the ground, but it ultimately proved to be the sheep alluded to. The descent took place in a pasture field called Saltwick Hawes, in the parish of Stannington. On descending, we were kindly invited to Startup House, in Ogle Barony, where we partook of the hospitality of its worthy host, and awaited the arrival of a chaise from Morpeth, in

which conveyance we arrived at Newcastle about half-past twelve o'clock."

1831 (*Sept. 20*).—About nine o'clock on the morning, a dreadful explosion took place in the Willington High Pit, the property of Messrs. Bell and Co., by which three men and eight horses were killed, and fourteen men severely burnt. The whole complement of men were in the colliery at the time of the accident, and many more lives must have been lost, but from another outlet to the pit, by which the men were drawn up. The names of the sufferers were, Michael Martin, Thomas Nicholls, and Joseph Armstrong.



October 10.—The common council of Newcastle, established a new corporate company entitled "The Company of Grocers and Spicers of Newcastle upon Tyne," of which Taylor Gibson, Henry Jefferson, John Daglish, Thomas Atkinson, Robert Usher, William Alexander Bowes, Thomas Dobson, William Pearson, William Mowbray Potts, John Mowbray, Septimus Mowbray, William Wailes, Richard Pringle Watson, the Younger, and Dawson Stephen Humble, free burgesses of the said town, and carrying on the trades or crafts of a grocer and spicer, or the one of them, in the said town, were declared members, and they were consequently enabled to bestow the freedom of the town upon their apprentices. The above wood-cut shews the arms of this new corporate company, for the use of which I am indebted to Mr. Henry Ingledew.

October 17.—This being the day appointed for the public meeting of the friends and associates of the Northern Political Union, to take into consideration the measures necessary to be adopted in consequence of the House of Lords having rejected the reform bill, large parties of reformers arrived from the neighbourhood of Newcastle, during the forenoon, and proceeded to the places appointed for them, previous to walking in procession to the town-moor, where the meeting was held. Nearly all the shops

were closed before the hour of meeting, and several flags were displayed in different parts of the town; but one that was hung out of the window of a dwelling-house in the Side, was considered of so improper a character, and attracted such crowds to witness it, that it was cut down by order of the mayor. It is necessary here to add, that this banner excited general disgust, and gave the only reason for the interference of the civil authorities during the day. A little before twelve o'clock, the procession started from Westgate-street, preceded by the hustings, on which a board was placed with the words "The King, Grey, and Liberty," painted on it. The reformers followed walking four a-breast, with complete regularity and order, forming a line of such immense extent as to occupy nearly fifty minutes in passing any particular spot. About a dozen bands and upwards of thirty flags, variously inscribed and ornamented, were dispersed over the whole, and contributed much to enliven the scene. In the centre of the procession was the carriage of Charles Attwood, esq., of Whickham, from whence he had been drawn that morning by a party of his friends, who continued to pursue this method of evincing their respect towards him. The hustings were placed on the cow-hill, and were immediately filled and surrounded by people who continued to increase in number until after one o'clock, when the number present were computed at about 50,000 persons. At one o'clock Mr. Attwood was called to the chair, and that gentleman immediately addressed the meeting at considerable length. The other principal speakers on the cause of reform, were, Mr. John Fife, surgeon, Mr. Eneas Mackenzie, Mr. Joseph Watson, Mr. R. W. Swan, Mr. W. A. Mitchell, Mr. T. Hepburn, Mr. W. H. Brockett, Mr. Larkin, and Mr. Thomas Doubleday. The last named gentleman having moved the thanks of the meeting to the chairman, for his able conduct in the chair, it was carried by acclamation. The chairman begged to assure them, that he would at any future time be glad to render them any service in his power in the advancement of the great cause for which they were assembled. Before they parted, he begged they would give three cheers for their gracious sovereign King William the Fourth, and three cheers for Earl Grey. The multitude then gave three times three tremendous cheers each for the King and Earl Grey, and left the town-moor in the most perfect order. An address to his majesty and a memorial to Earl Grey were unanimously agreed to at this meeting.

1831 (*Oct. 22*).—A fire broke out at Presson-farm, near Wark, belonging to Mr. Taylor. The wind blew very high, and in a few minutes the flames increased to a frightful height, and consumed two large stacks of hay, five large stacks of straw, a stable, two sheds, two byers, and a hen house. With great exertions the fat cattle and horses were got safely out, and the fire prevented spreading to other parts of the building. Its origin could not be accounted for.

October 25.—A public meeting of the inhabitants of Newcastle, was held in the Guildhall of that town, to consider of and adopt

the best means of supporting the patriotic exertions of his majesty's ministers, for still carrying the reform measure into effect. On the motion of James Losh, esq., the right worshipful the mayor of Newcastle, Archibald Reed, esq., was called to the chair; and the requisition having been read, he said he hoped every gentleman would obtain a fair and impartial hearing. James Losh, esq., then rose, and in a speech of considerable length stated in a most luminous manner the object of the meeting; the other speakers were Anthony Easterby, esq., Mr. Alderman Wright, Mr. John Bowes Wright, Mr. William Irving Wilkinson, Mr. William Armstrong, M. W. Ridley, esq., Dr. Headlam, Mr. Armorer Donkin, and John Hodgson, esq., M. P. The latter gentleman observed that he had witnessed with much satisfaction the unanimity that had prevailed at the meeting. He cordially agreed in the resolutions, but declined troubling the assembly at any length, as he had merely risen as a matter of form, to propose the thanks of the meeting to the chairman, whose ability and impartial conduct had never been more conspicuous than on that occasion. He concluded by moving that the resolutions and the two addresses should be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and that the latter should be transmitted for presentation to his majesty and Earl Grey. He likewise moved that the thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Reed. Mr. Charnley seconded the first proposition, and Mr. Losh the latter, when the mayor briefly returned thanks, and said it would give him the highest degree of pleasure to sign the resolutions and addresses. The meeting, which was numerous and respectably attended, then broke up.

1831 (Oct. 26).—A disease, termed *Cholera Morbus*, made its first appearance at Sunderland, in the county of Durham, and so fatal were its effects, that between the above day and April the 3d, 1832, there were 538 persons attacked, of whom 205 died.* On its first appearance much alarm was excited in consequence of some medical practitioners having declared that it was *contagious*, whilst others contended for its *non-contagion*; in the mean time government having been apprised of the mortality existing at Sunderland, sent Doctors Daun and Barry (the former intimately acquainted with cholera from his long residence in India, and the latter had been to Russia to witness the progress of cholera there), to examine and report, and they, in opposition to the resident faculty, declared it to be the Asiatic cholera of a highly malignant and contagious nature, and in consequence the ships from that port were put under a quarantine of fifteen days, causing great stagnation of business, which added much to the distress amongst the lower orders. Boards of health were established at that and the neighbouring towns. The large school-house, built by Mr. White, at Coxon's Green, near Sunderland, was fitted up as an hospital for the reception of patients afflicted with cholera. The barrack gates were closed to prevent the garrison having any

* Communicated by my friend, William Reid Clanny, esq., M. D., Sunderland.

communication with the town, the magistrates caused the streets and lanes to be cleansed by the fire engines, and a committee of gentlemen was formed, who divided the town into districts, and visited each daily, in order that all persons afflicted with cholera might have medical aid. Many meetings of the faculty and others took place for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the dreadful malady, and also to devise the best means of relieving the distressed inhabitants. The nobility and gentry of the county of Durham subscribed liberally towards the relief of the poor during this awful visitation. On its first appearance it was supposed to have been imported from abroad by the shipping, this was satisfactorily ascertained not to have been the case, but that it was the English cholera of a highly malignant nature. It raged principally amongst the lower orders whose dissolute habits and poverty rendered them speedy victims to its direful attacks, most of them only surviving a few hours. In the year 1665, during the plague of London, that dreadful disease was imported into Sunderland by shipping, as appears from the following entry taken from the register-book of the parish of Bishopwearmouth :—" Jeremy Read, Billingham in Kent, bringer of the plague, of which died about thirty persons out of Sunderland in three months. Sepult. July 5th 1665."

Not wishing the cholera *to spread*, I shall here deviate a little from the chronological order of the work.

1831 (*Dec. 7*).—The cholera morbus commenced its ravages in Newcastle, from which time to March the 12th, 1832, the number of persons attacked was 971, of which 306 died. From the constant intercourse between Newcastle and Sunderland, this visitation had been apprehended for some time, therefore every means had been adopted by the local authorities to avert as much as possible the impending danger. Various meetings of the faculty, &c., took place, at one of which doctors Daun and Barry were present, lieut-col. Creagh had formed a board of health by order of government, and Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, having received orders to send to government daily reports of the state of health in Sunderland, South Shields, North Shields, and Newcastle, obtained every information in his power for that purpose. Letters were sent to the owners of property in Sandgate, Pandon, the Close, Castle-garth, Queen-street, Bailiff-gate, Back-row, and other ill-ventilated and dirty places in the town, calculated to spread the infection, earnestly recommending them to have the interior of their houses washed with hot lime, either at their own expense or that of their tenants. The magistrates, who were unceasing in their exertions to mitigate the evil, ordered the lanes in Sandgate to be washed with hot lime and thoroughly cleansed. Hospitals, to which patients might be removed on their first attack, from populous neighbourhoods, and where they could be more efficiently attended to, were fitted up with the requisite conveniences. The Castle was appropriated to the parish of St. Nicholas; for the parish of All Saints, a large house on the North Shore behind Sandgate, was converted into an hospital; the paupers were removed from

St. John's poor-house, in the Bath-lane, without the Westgate, to other premises, and that building was fitted up for the reception of cholera patients in the parishes of St. John and St. Andrew. The mayor issued an order in pursuance of the powers delegated to him by the privy council, that the bodies of all persons who died of cholera, should be interred within twelve hours from the time of their decease, and an inspector was appointed to see that this order was complied with. Every precaution was taken with the dead; they were buried in a part of the church-yards set aside for the purpose, their graves were not less than six feet deep, and quick lime was thrown in upon the coffins, the corpses were not allowed to enter the churches, but were taken forward to the graves, and the service read over them there. In St. Nicholas' church-yard they were buried east of the north transept. The number of recently dug graves, all so near together, had a very mournful effect, and in consequence lime was spread over them, then earth added, and the hillocks levelled, which rendered the sight not so appalling to the passenger. The corporation caused a carriage to be constructed to convey with more ease and less danger, patients to the various hospitals, and the same body were at the expense of building a hearse to convey the corpses to the grave. The barracks by way of precaution were closed, and the soldiers stationed there were not allowed to come into the town. In consequence of this visitation, the theatre in that town was not opened as usual for the Winter season, a quarantine was placed upon all ships from that port, by which business was most grievously stagnated, and the annual Christmas ball and supper given at the mansion-house were postponed until the 22d of March, 1832, *which see*. It was most distressing to hear during the greatest fatality of this disorder, the constant tolling of the bells of the various churches from morn to night, and every heart seemed to mourn, on observing, in rapid succession, such a number of corpses being conveyed through the streets, many of them without a single attendant, but the person who was appointed to lead the horse, which was attached to the hearse, and he holding the bridle at its utmost stretch, but let me forego these appalling recollections, and state what was done by the voluntary and liberal contributions of the nobility, gentry, and the inhabitants in general towards relieving those who were in misery and want. A great number of keels of coals were given to the poor by the coal-owners, but the following copy of a hand-bill delivered at the time will best explain the munificence of the public during this distressing period:—

“ THE COMMITTEE

APPOINTED by the Public Meeting held on the 30th November, to relieve the Wants and add to the Comforts of the Poor Inhabitants of Newcastle, having, in consequence of the pressing Demands made upon them by the different Parochial Boards, and from their anxious desire promptly and efficiently to remove the extreme Privation and Distress found to exist, considerably exceeded in their Expenditure the Amount of the Subscriptions they have received, respectfully submit a Statement of the Relief they have

afforded, while they urge the necessity of further Contributions. On Application they have supplied to the Parishes the following :—

	<i>Pairs Blankets.</i>	<i>Rugs.</i>	<i>Petticoats.</i>	<i>Flannel Shirts.</i>	<i>Pairs Trowsers.</i>	<i>Pieces Flannel.</i>	<i>Pieces Calico.</i>	<i>Bed Ticks.</i>	<i>Pairs Clogs.</i>	<i>Pairs Stockings.</i>	<i>Pieces Gingham.</i>
St. Nicholas',...	127	85	108	24	18	7	5	24	120	132	3
All Saints',.....	664	398	416	258	183	20	31	157	618	415	7
St. John's,	251	199	204	72	54	3	4	24	216	216	3
St. Andrew's,...	228	144	90	84	114	15	8	24	252	120	2
Westgate,	10	4	0	0	4	1	0	5	12	0	0
Byker,	50	35	0	0	10	0	0	0	120	120	0
	1330	865	818	438	383	46	48	234	1338	1003	15

And in addition to this they have sent to All Saints', 84 Jackets and 12 Bed-gowns, to St. Andrew's, 24 Boys' Caps and 12 pairs Women's Shoes.

	£.	s.	d.
For these articles they have already paid	1221	8	0
And for Keel dues and labour for Coals, &c.	51	18	6
Making together	£1273	6	6

In Addition to this they have nearly £130 yet to pay. The Amount of Subscriptions received is £1,106. 5s. 6d., so that, in the Expenditure and the Obligations they have incurred, they have exceeded their Receipts by about THREE HUNDRED POUNDS.

The Committee are rejoiced to think that by the timely Aid they have been enabled to afford, more especially in Situations where the Cholera was most prevalent, the progress of the Malady has been materially checked. They appeal with Confidence, therefore, to the Benevolence of the Public to empower them, by renewed Subscriptions, to discharge their Obligations, and to extend still further Assistance where it is much wanted.

It is particularly requested that Gentlemen who have not yet paid their Subscriptions will have the Goodness to forward them without delay to Sir M. W. Ridley and Co., the Treasurers, or to any of the Banks in Newcastle. *Merchant's Court, Newcastle, December 31, 1831."*

The overseers, &c., of the different parishes in their search of the necessitous inhabitants, were frequently shocked at the scenes of wretchedness which presented themselves.

The following table is taken correctly from the official daily reports of

CHOLERA AT NEWCASTLE.

The first Report of Cholera was issued on the 9th Dec. 1831.—The following is a copy :—

<i>" Newcastle, 9th Dec. 1831, 10 o'clock.</i>	
<i>" First Report of Cholera.</i>	
<i>" Cases in the last two days,</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>" Dead,</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>" Remaining,</i>	<i>3</i>

The three remaining cases are mild.
" By order of the Board of Health,
" JOHN BROWN, Secretary."

The subsequent Reports appeared as follows :—

	<i>Remaining at last Report.</i>	<i>New Cases.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Recovered.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Remaining at this date.</i>
1831. (First Report),	0	5	5	0	2	3
Dec. 10, Saturday,	3	2	5	0	2	3
11, Sunday,	3	2	5	0	1	4
12, Monday,	4	7	11	1	2	8
13, Tuesday,	8	16	24	1	3	20
14, Wednesday, ...	20	14	34	0	3	31
15, Thursday,	31	15	46	2	10	34
16, Friday,	34	13	47	2	6	39
17, Saturday,	39	20	59	7	5	47
18, Sunday,	47	11	58	3	2	53
19, Monday,	53	7	60	19	5	36
20, Tuesday,	36	11	47	9	8	30
21, Wednesday, ...	30	30	60	12	4	44
22, Thursday,	44	11	55	7	6	42
23, Friday,	42	13	55	14	2	39
24, Saturday,	39	12	51	10	7	34
25, Sunday,	34	21	55	6	9	40
26, Monday,	40	16	56	8	6	42
27, Tuesday,	42	20	62	9	10	43
28, Wednesday, ...	43	39	82	9	6	67
29, Thursday,	67	22	89	15	8	66
30, Friday,	66	32	98	23	11	64
31, Saturday,	64	23	87	7	4	76
1832.						
Jan. 1, Sunday,	76	57	133	14	11	108
2, Monday,	108	18	126	12	6	108
3, Tuesday,	108	45	153	26	11	116
4, Wednesday, ...	116	29	145	19	6	120
5, Thursday,	120	10	130	5	5	120
6, Friday,	120	47	167	45	11	111
7, Saturday,	111	19	130	19	8	103
8, Sunday,	103	29	132	24	9	99
9, Monday,	99	10	109	9	2	98
10, Tuesday,	98	13	111	15	6	90
11, Wednesday, ...	90	20	110	16	7	87
12, Thursday,	87	14	101	16	6	79
13, Friday,	79	7	86	11	1	74
14, Saturday,	74	20	94	11	1	82
15, Sunday,	82	16	98	18	5	75
16, Monday,	75	21	96	21	12	63
17, Tuesday,	63	15	78	9	4	65
18, Wednesday, ...	65	20	85	12	6	67
19, Thursday,	67	8	75	8	7	60
20, Friday,	60	7	67	7	3	57
21, Saturday,	57	13	70	2	6	62
22, Sunday,	62	1	63	11	0	52
23, Monday,	52	22	74	8	3	63
24, Tuesday,	63	14	77	3	2	72
25, Wednesday, ...	72	9	81	20	7	54
26, Thursday,	54	9	63	10	3	50
27, Friday,	50	10	60	8	4	48
28, Saturday,	48	11	59	8	5	46
		876		551	279	

Carried forward,

	<i>Remaining at last Report.</i>	<i>New Cases.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Recovered.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Remaining at this date.</i>
Brought forward, 1832.		876		551	279	
29, Sunday,	46	7	53	3	1	44
30, Monday,	44	5	49	10	4	35
31, Tuesday,	35	8	43	4	1	38
Feb. 1, Wednesday,	38	6	44	14	4	26
2, Thursday,	26	1	27	10	0	17
3, Friday,	17	7	24	10	0	14
4, Saturday,	14	5	19	0	1	18
5, Sunday,	18	4	22	5	1	16
6, Monday,	16	2	18	5	0	13
7, Tuesday,	13	2	15	2	0	13
8, Wednesday,	13	5	18	5	2	11
9, Thursday,	11	4	15	2	1	12
10, Friday,	12	0	12	6	0	6
11, Saturday,	6	1	7	2	0	5
12, Sunday,	5	1	6	1	0	5
13, Monday,	5	2	7	1	0	6
14, Tuesday,	6	1	7	1	1	5
15, Wednesday,	5	6	11	5	0	6
16, Thursday,	6	2	8	1	1	6
17, Friday,	6	1	7	2	0	5
18, Saturday,	5	2	7	2	0	5
19, Sunday,	5	4	9	0	2	7
20, Monday,	7	2	9	2	1	6
21, Tuesday,	6	1	7	1	0	6
22, Wednesday,	6	2	8	0	2	6
23, Thursday,	6	2	8	1	0	7
24, Friday,	7	0	7	2	0	5
25, Saturday,	5	1	6	2	0	4
26, Sunday,	4	0	4	1	0	3
27, Monday,	3	1	4	2	1	1
28, Tuesday,	1	1	2	0	0	2
29, Wednesday, ...	2	1	3	0	0	3
Mar. 1, Thursday,	3	2	5	0	0	5
2, Friday,	5	1	6	2	0	4
3, Saturday,	4	2	6	1	1	4
4, Sunday,	4	0	4	1	0	3
5, Monday,	3	0	3	1	0	2
6, Tuesday,	2	1	3	0	0	3
7, Wednesday,	3	0	3	0	0	3
8, Thursday,	3	1	4	0	0	4
9, Friday,	4	0	4	1	2	1
10, Saturday,	1	0	1	1	0	0
11, Sunday,	0	1	1	0	0	1
12, Monday,	1	0	1	0	1	0
* 13, Tuesday,	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total from 7th Dec. 1831.		971		665	306	

The Reports were all signed,

“JOHN BROWN,
“Secretary to the Board of Health.”

The above does not include the cases in Newcastle and Gateshead, which were attended by Mr. George Tinn, surgeon, of

* To this day's report was added,—“This is the last report to be issued.”

Newcastle, whose kind communication I here acknowledge, and of which the following is a copy :—

“ DEAR SIR,—It is with great pleasure that I communicate to you the number of cases I attended of the disease which was lately epidemic here, and which was generally, but, in my opinion, erroneously believed to be cholera. Cases, 168; deaths, 16; recovered, 152. It may also be proper to state, that six of those who died, had been previously attended by other medical practitioners. They had also taken mustard or other stimulants, and three of them had also been bled.

“ I am, sir,

“ your obedient servant,

“ GEORGE TINN.

“ *Newcastle, April 18, 1832.*”

There were interred at St. Nicholas church, from December the 13th, 1831, to January 29th, 1832, thirty-one persons who had died of this disease; and at All Saints church, from December the 9th, 1831, to February 21st, 1832, eighty-seven persons who had fallen victims to the same disorder. The other churches also received a portion, but the generally crowded state of all the churchyards in Newcastle, precluded them admitting any more; the bodies were, therefore, after this, interred at the Ballast-hills, St. Ann's chapel, and the Westgate-hill General Cemetery. In answer to a request which I made to John Fenwick, esq., that gentlemen with the greatest urbanity, sent me a letter of which the following is a copy :—

“ Newcastle upon Tyne, 14th April, 1832.

“ DEAR SIR,—On the breaking out of the Cholera in this town, the committee of the Westgate Hill General Cemetery, appropriated the south-west corner of the ground for the interment of such persons as might die of that disease. They ordered that no dead body should be brought into the chapel, but be carried at once to the grave, which by the regulations of the trust, could not be less in depth than six feet from the surface, and that the sexton should always throw a quantity of quick lime on the coffin before he began to throw in the earth. I am not informed of the precise number of persons who had died of this disease who were buried in this ground, as the committee had no power to make any regulations respecting interments in vaults or in graves, the private property of individuals; but a considerable number must have been interred. After the disease became very fatal, the officers of the various parishes, sent the bodies of all persons who had to be buried at the public expense to the New Cemetery, as the church-yards were so crowded that it was not deemed prudent to inter persons dying of this disease in them.

“ I am, dear sir,

“ your's sincerely,

“ JOHN FENWICK.”

As a proof of the sanatory condition of Newcastle, previously to its being visited by the cholera, it may be stated from a careful examination of the several registers of burial, that the deaths for the months of September, October, and November, 1830, were 538, and that for the corresponding months in 1831, the deaths were 432, being less by 106, than the former period. The above mortality dreadful as it may be considered, is nothing compared with the destruction of human life in the year 1636, when the plague visited Newcastle and Gateshead. In the former place there were 5037 deaths, and in the latter 515 deaths, out of what must have

been a very limited population compared with the present. A statement of weekly progress of the plague in Newcastle and Gateshead at that time may be considered interesting :—

IN NEWCASTLE,

1636, From May 7th to the 14th,.....	59
— May 14th to the 21st,.....	55
— May 21st to the 28th,.....	99
— May 28th to June 4th,.....	122
— June 4th to the 11th,	99
— June 11th to the 18th,	162
— June 18th to the 25th,	133
— June 25th to July 2nd,.....	172
— July 2nd to the 9th,	184
— July 9th to the 16th,	212
— July 16th to the 23rd,	270
— July 23rd to the 30th,.....	366
— July 30th to August 7th, ...	337
— August 7th to the 14th,	422
— August 14th to the 21st,.....	346
— August 21st to the 28th,.....	246
— August 28th to September 4th,.....	520
— September 4th to the 11th,	325
— September 11th to December 31st, } when the plague ceased.	908
<hr/>	
Total of deaths in Newcastle,	5037

IN GATESHEAD,

1636, From May 30th to June 6th,	10
— June 6th to 13th,.....	24
— June 13th to 20th,	19
— June 20th to 27th,	34
— June 27th to July 4th,..	40
— July 4th to 11th,....	75
— July 11th to 18th,.....	66
— July 18th to 25th,.....	60
— July 25th, to August 1st,.....	60
— August 1st to 8th,.....	29
— August 8th to 15th,	17
— August 15th to 22d, ..	18
— August 22nd to 29th,.....	13
— August 29th to September 5th,	14
— September 5th to 12th,.....	11
— September 12th to 19th,.....	7
— September 19th to 26th,.....	4
— September 26th to October 3rd,	6
— October 3rd to 10th,	2
— October 10th to 17th,	2
— October 17th,	4
<hr/>	
Total in Gateshead,.....	515

It will be seen by the above tables that the greatest sweep of human life in one week in Newcastle, was 520 ! This dreadful visitation, would in all probability have been accompanied with a great famine (the usual concomitant of a pestilence), had not the magistrates of the town exerted their utmost endeavours to

prevent it. Fumigations of pitch, rosin, and frankincense, appear to have been used as antidotes on this melancholy occasion, and to cleanse the apartments of those who had died of it, to prevent the spreading of the infection. *See vol. i. page 89.*

A letter redd in guild from the mayor and aldermen of Newcastle upon Tyne to the mayor and aldermen of this Brough.

“RIGHT WORTHIE GENT.

“Wee haue receaved from yo^w by a servant of Sir John Claver-
ing the some of 40 marks a verie ample expression of your pittie to us in this
our great calamitie by reason of the sore pestilence so long contynueing in this
place, your charitie with the helpe of God shall be by us continually had in
remembrance, and as occasion shall require shall be requited with thankfull-
ness according to our powers. God in his mercye for Christ Jesus his sake
cease the sickness and preserve yuw and all others from the same. The
number of the dead is not so manye this last weeke as formerly being but one
hundred twentie two. The great death of people that hath beene which doth
amount to verie nere 6000 persons since the beginning wee feare is the cause
that there dye fewer now ; there being not soe many people left in the towne
as there was. Thus with all due respects of thankfulness wee rest,

“Your truly loving friends

“PETE RIDDELL, maior.

“WM. WARMOUTH, ROB. ANDERSON,

Octob 1636

“RAPHE COLE, LEONARD CARR, vic.”

A copy of the above letter extracted from the Guild-book, Ber-
wick, 1636, fol. 159, was presented by the Rev. James Raine, of
Durham, to the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle, from whose
Transactions I have copied it verbatim.

Newcastle has frequently been visited by most dreadful plagues.
It is stated in “The Life of Ambrose Barnes, sometime alderman
of Newcastle,” that he was “bound apprentice to the calling and
profession of a merchant, the year after the town had been surren-
dered to the Scots,” (1645), and that during his servitude, “that
desolating judgment, the pestilence, had made for some months,
an horrible devastation in Newcastle, heaps of dead bodies, were
every night carried in carts, to be buried without the walls,* and
the town was very much become a solitude. One of the maid ser-
vants in the family where Mr. Barnes liv’d was lying below stairs,
sick in bed, the other was to appearance in health, waiting at table
upon her master. Mr. Barnes informed him of some dangerous
symptoms which the maid who was sick began to have upon her
body. The master perceiving the contagion had reacht his house,
arose immediately from dinner, leaving the shop, counting-house,
‘scritoire, debt-books, keyes, and all his effects,’ to the care of Mr.
Barnes, and the same day took ship at Shields, for Hamburgh.
That night dy’d the maid, who at dinner time, was waiting at table
in perfect health, the next day dy’d the other maid, who had fell
sick before. Mr. Barnes was quickly after infected, and shut up
in an empty large house near the Exchange, without any living

* At that time there would be few or no buildings without the walls, ex-
cept on the east. During the excavations for the numerous buildings which
have since been erected without the walls, these bones have not yet been
turned up. Time may expose them to public view.

creature besides himself, but they rapt at his door, when they brought him meat, and he himself came and took it in. In this hideous lonely manner he spent several dayes and nights. A huge great tumour rose upon his neck behind, the suppuration whereof, physitions were of opinion, saved his life."

1831 (*Dec. 10*).—The cholera made its first appearance at North Shields, from which day to March the 17th, 1832, the number of individuals attacked in North Shields, Tynemouth, and Chirton, was 258, of whom died 91 persons.

December 25.—The Cholera made its appearance at Gateshead, and on the following day (Monday), forty cases had occurred. The number of persons attacked between this day and the 6th of March, 1832, was 402, of which 144 died. On the Tuesday, the number of new cases was by far the largest that had occurred in the district in any one day,* which excited considerable alarm. "On the 25th, about one o'clock," says Mr. Brady, "we were assailed by a third and fourth example of the disease, and before the next morning at ten o'clock, a very considerable number had fallen sacrifices to its pestilential ravages. Within a space of twelve hours it spread itself over a diameter of two miles, and appeared to pay but very little distinction to altitude of situation, for the higher parts of the town were laid under its stroke in an equal degree, or nearly so, with the lower. Pipewellgate, Hillgate, the banks above Pipewellgate, Oakwellgate, and the lanes leading from it, Jackson's Chare, Nun's-lane, Wreckenton, Gateshead Low-fell, Low-team, situations as different in their external characters as can well be conceived, were all indiscriminately exposed to its fury, and I do not think the cases were one whit milder in the more elevated, than in the lower parts of the town. That it is virulently epidemic a glaring proof has now been afforded to my mind by the way in which we have been here visited by the disorder—no principles of contagion could account for such a sudden spread of the disease."† The above in a great measure refutes the argument for contagion, and Mr. Greenhow, among other arguments on the non-communicability of cholera, gives the following:—"That, in the hospitals at Newcastle and Gateshead, where, were there such an agent as contagion, it must have been present in its most concentrated form, no case has occurred of illness arising from attendance on the sick, either in the persons of the nurses, the resident apothecaries, or the attending, or numerous succession of visiting members of the medical profession." And again, "That the notion of persons being infected by the dead bodies of cholera patients appear equally unfounded, some such suspected cases are referable to other causes; and those most exposed to contact with the dead, as medical men, in pursuing post mortem examinations, have not, in any instance suffered." The following table is taken correctly from the official daily reports of

* A joiner in Gateshead, it is stated, made fifty coffins in one week, and from December 25th to January the 13th, had made 102 coffins for persons having died of this malady.

† See Mr. Greenhow's work on Cholera, 1832.

CHOLERA AT GATESHEAD.

	<i>Remaining at last Report.</i>	<i>New Cases.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Recovered.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Remaining at this date, 12 o'clock.</i>
1831.						
Dec. 26, Monday,	0	40	40	0	10	30
27, Tuesday,	30	59	89	8	32	49
28, Wednesday, ...	49	44	93	12	13	68
29, Thursday,	68	29	97	15	8	74
30, Friday,	74	39	113	16	3	94
31, Saturday,	94	20	114	22	8	84
1832.						
Jan. 1, Sunday,	84	20	104	9	1	94
2, Monday,	94	18	112	15	8	89
3, Tuesday,	89	16	105	11	5	89
4, Wednesday,	89	25	114	11	5	98
5, Thursday,	98	15	113	19	9	85
6, Friday,	85	8	93	22	7	64
7, Saturday,	64	6	70	29	6	35
8, Sunday,	35	7	42	3	2	37
9, Monday,	37	11	48	3	5	40
10, Tuesday,	40	9	49	12	1	36
11, Wednesday,	36	1	37	8	1	28
12, Thursday,	28	2	30	2	2	26
13, Friday,	26	0	26	8	2	16
14, Saturday,	16	5	21	5	1	15
15, Sunday,	15	2	17	0	1	16
16, Monday,	16	2	18	8	0	10
17, Tuesday,	10	0	10	1	1	8
18, Wednesday,	8	0	8	3	2	3
19, Thursday,	3	2	5	0	1	4
20, Friday,	4	1	5	0	1	4
21, Saturday,	4	1	5	1	0	4
22, Sunday,	4	2	6	0	1	5
23, Monday,	5	1	6	1	0	5
24, Tuesday,	5	1	6	0	2	4
25, Wednesday,	4	2	6	1	1	4
26, Thursday,	4	2	6	3	0	3
27, Friday,	3	0	3	0	1	2
28, Saturday,	2	0	2	0	0	2
29, Sunday,	2	0	2	0	1	1
30, Monday,	1	1	2	0	0	2
31, Tuesday,	2	0	2	0	0	2
Mar. 1, Wednesday,	2	7	9	0	0	9
2, Thursday,	9	1	10	1	1	8
3, Friday,	8	1	9	3	1	5
4, Saturday,	5	1	6	2	0	4
5, Sunday,	4	1	5	2	1	2
6, Monday,	2	0	2	2	0	0
Total since Dec. 25, 1831,		402		258	144	

All the Reports signed,

"JOHN DOBSON,

"Secretary to the Board of Health."

Sunderland, Newcastle, North Shields, and Gateshead, appear to have been the towns in Durham and Northumberland, most devoted to the ravages of this pestilence, but a great number of colliery and other villages suffered in no ordinary degree. On the 3d of Jan. 1832, at the village of Newburn, situated on the river Tyne, about five miles west of Newcastle, the cholera broke out and made dreadful devastation—out of a population of 550, occupying 131 houses, there were 424 persons attacked, of whom 57 died. Among the victims was the Rev. James Edmonson, the vicar of that place. After the death of Mr. Edmonson, no funeral rites were performed over those who died of the cholera, until the appointment of the Rev. Mr. Reed, to the vicarage, when that divine performed the service at the grave of his predecessor, and the others, who had not had that service at the time of interment. *See March 4th, 1832.*

1831 (*Oct. 27*).—There was a great public meeting at Sunderland, to determine on presenting an address to the king on the subject of the rejection, by the House of Lords, of the bill for a reform in the Commons' House of Parliament. During the early part of the day, the Sunderland band of music paraded the streets, and about 12 o'clock, Sir H. Williamson, bart., M. P., entered the town in his gig, which was decorated with a large blue and yellow flag. Most of the shops were closed, and flags were exhibited from several of the windows. The meeting was convened to take place in the Assembly Room at twelve o'clock, but owing to the great crowd that attended, it was adjourned to the large open area in front of the building. After the arrangements had been completed, Bernard Ogden, esq., was called to the chair, and H. Lambton, esq., Sir H. Williamson, bart., M. P., R. Brown, esq., J. W. Wright, esq., — Pemberton, esq., R. Spoor, esq., of Whitburn, &c. &c., moved the resolutions, &c., in animated addresses, which were received with loud cheers, by the assembled thousands, and the meeting broke up. The whole was conducted in the most peaceful manner.

October 31.—The freeholders and other inhabitants of the county of Durham, met in the spacious area in front of the court-house at the city of Durham, to deliberate on the rejection of the reform bill, and to address his majesty and his ministers. The number present was between 8,000 and 10,000, several parties having arrived from Gateshead and other parts of the county during the forenoon. On the ground a variety of banners and placards were displayed, inscribed with mottoes generally indicative of esteem for the king and his ministers, and detestation of boroughmongery and boroughmongers. The scene, before the commencement of the meeting, was further enlivened by the presence of three or four bands of music which played at intervals. Hustings were erected in the centre of the area, which were nearly filled long before the hour of meeting. Soon after one o'clock the high sheriff, C. J. Clavering, esq., of Axwell Park, took the chair and opened the proceedings, after which, the requisition (to the sheriff), numerous and respectably signed was then read. The principal

speakers were, G. H. Wilkinson, W. C. Harland, Cuthbert Rippon, R. D. Shaftoe, Hedworth Lambton, T. C. Granger, W. Russell, M. P., Sir Hedworth Williamson, bart., M. P., W. R. C. Chaytor, M. P., George Baker, G. T. Fox, George Silvertop, and Charles Attwood, esqrs. After several cheers had been given for the king, Mr. Wilkinson moved the thanks of the meeting to the high sheriff, for his impartial conduct in the chair; and also that he should sign the addresses on behalf of the meeting. The sheriff said that he would do so with great pleasure, and then dissolved the meeting.

1831 (*Nov. 9*).—The sacrament of confirmation was administered by the Right Rev. Dr. Penswick, bishop of *Europum*, and vicar apostolic of the northern district, in the Catholic chapel in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, to between 400 and 500 children. The ceremony was exceedingly impressive, and was preceded by an appropriate sermon, preached by the bishop in his pontifical robes. One of Mozart's masses was sung with great effect by the choir. Mr. Charles Miller presided.

November 10.—An address from the inhabitants of Sunderland to his majesty, on parliamentary reform which had been voted at a public meeting held there, was forwarded for presentation, having 10,077 signatures attached to it.

November 17.—As George Lowerson, a boy about four years of age, was playing about his father's door at the Felling, near Newcastle, the covering of an old pit unknown to any person, sunk in with him, and he was drowned in the water at the bottom. His body was not found until the 21st., and on the following day an inquest was held on the body, who brought in a verdict of "accidental death."

November 25.—The mayor of Berwick, John Langhorn, esq., with the magistrates and other officers, a deputation appointed by the corporation, waited on Lord Edward Fitzclarence, at Etal House, in Northumberland, to present his lordship with the freedom of the borough. After an appropriate address by the mayor, and a condescending reply by the noble lord, the deputation were hospitably entertained with an elegant *déjeuner à la fourchette*, and returned highly gratified by the politeness and cordiality of their reception. Lord Edward Fitzclarence is a son of the present popular monarch of these realms, King William the Fourth.

Same day, died, at Colliery Row, near Houghton-le-Spring, Mrs. Elizabeth Robson, aged 100 years.

December 21.—The friends and admirers of the Rev. William Turner, of the Unitarian chapel, Hanover Square, Newcastle, gave him a very splendid entertainment at the Assembly Rooms in acknowledgment of his great public usefulness, and on the occasion of his entrance into the fiftieth year of his residence in that town. Upwards of one hundred gentlemen sat down to dinner, among whom were, James Losh, esq., chairman; Dr. Headlam and William Boyd, esq., vice-presidents; the Right Worshipful Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, of Newcastle; Alderman Shadforth, Sir Robert Shafto Hawks; Colonel Campbell, and Charles William Bigge,

John Buddle, John Adamson, John Clayton, Samuel Walker Parker, Anthony Easterby, Armorer Donkin, Russel Blackbird, Alfred Hall, John Lambton Loraine, Robert Ingham, and John Bowes Wright, esqrs., &c. &c. This venerable gentleman, then seventy years of age, was highly complimented in the various excellent speeches that were made on this occasion. His philanthropy and unceasing endeavours to do all the good which lay within his power, particularly in the formation of Sunday schools, literary societies, &c., without regard to sect or party, had endeared him to every one. After the evening had been spent in the most gratifying manner, Mr. Turner proposed that they should conclude by drinking a favourite toast of a highly valued friend of his, long since dead, Mr. Thomas Simpson, of the blue manufactory, who was extremely hospitable, but always within the bounds of moderation. He hoped they would join him in giving—"Decent Conviviality." Mr. Losh observed, that it was his duty, as chairman, to keep them as long together as he could; but after the kind exhortation of their venerable friend, he felt it to be no less a duty to comply with his request, and wish them all good night. The company then separated, highly gratified at the spirit of cheerfulness and decorum which had prevailed during the evening.

A few days after, this reverend gentleman had another proof of attachment shewn to him. On Monday the 9th of January, 1832, the Unitarian congregation assembling in Hanover Square chapel, Newcastle, presented their pastor with an elegant silver salver, suitably inscribed, to mark their sense of his efficient services as a preacher of the gospel, and in commemoration of his entering upon the fiftieth year of his ministry. It was presented by James Losh, esq., who addressed Mr. Turner and the company assembled, at the close of which Mr. Losh said, "I shall add no more, but request the secretary to read the inscription on the plate, and again beg the reverend gentleman's acceptance of this token of our esteem." Mr. R. W. Swan then read the inscription, which was as follows:—"This salver was presented to the Rev. William Turner, by the Unitarian congregation of Hanover Square chapel, Newcastle upon Tyne, on the occasion of his entering into the 50th year of his ministry, as a testimonial of their unqualified approbation of his services during that period, of their sincere respect and affection for him as a friend, and of their unfeigned admiration of him as a man and a christian. The subscription on this occasion, confined to members of the chapel, having accumulated to the amount of three hundred and twenty pounds, it was resolved to invest three hundred pounds of this sum in securities for Mr. Turner's benefit. That their faithful shepherd may long live to enjoy this tribute of their affection and esteem, is the earnest prayer of his christian flock. Presented on the ix. day of Jan. MDCCCXXXII." Mr. Turner then returned thanks in a very feeling reply, in certain parts of which he seemed much affected. Mr. Swan, as secretary to the committee for conducting the subscription, then presented to Mr. Turner a list of the names and individual subscriptions, which

was done in a very appropriate address. The congregation then separated. An excellent likeness of Mr. Turner was engraved by the late Mr. Ranson from a painting by Nicholson. Mr. Charnley has also published a very good portrait of this popular divine, and the late Mr. Bewick cut in wood a very striking black profile in miniature.

1831 (*Dec. 23*).—Early on the morning, the stables of Jacob Maude, esq., of Selaby-hall, near Staindrop, in the county of Durham, were set on fire, and four fine horses, two of them hunters, and two coach horses, worth from £400. to £500. were entirely destroyed. No doubt was entertained that this was the work of incendiaries, as this was a second attack, the stables having been partly set on fire the Sunday previous, December the 18th, but it had been got under. For the apprehension of the incendiaries, his majesty's government offered £200., Mr. Maude £100., and the marquis of Cleveland £100.

December 24.—Upwards of 1,000 pitmen riotously assembled together at Waldrige colliery, near Chester-le-street, in the county of Durham, and while from twenty to thirty men were at work in the mine, stopped the engine, necessarily kept going in order to pump out the water, and then threw large iron tubs, wooden cisterns, corves, and other articles down the shaft, by which stoppage of the engine, throwing down of tubs, &c., the workmen were placed in the utmost danger. For apprehending and bringing to justice the persons concerned in these outrages, his majesty's government offered a reward of 250 guineas, and a free pardon to accomplices, and the owners of Waldrige colliery also offered a reward of 250 guineas to any one but the real actors in the outrage. At the Durham Spring Assizes, March the 2d, 1832, six men named James Becketts, Cuthbert Turnbull, John Middleton, John Rippon, Samuel Brown, David Kelly, and Thomas Moore, were put upon their trial for the above outrages, and after a patient investigation, the jury retired for about ten minutes, and returned with a verdict finding Brown, Rippon, Moore, Middleton, Kelly, and Becketts, guilty, and Turnbull, not guilty; the first three were then sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment, Middleton and Kelly to 12 months, and Becketts to 6 months' imprisonment. It appeared upon the trial, that the pitmen employed at this colliery had refused to work, and in consequence the owners had employed some lead miners, who were down the pit at the time of the outrage. The pitmen's attempt at domination is here too apparent, seeing that they will neither work themselves nor let others work; this is intolerable. The laws will protect the men that are willing to work. Mr. Justice Alderson, in passing sentence, observed "that they had been convicted by a jury of their country of a very serious offence, of a brutal and unmanly attempt on the lives of men who had done them no wrong, but who not being able by their honest labour to obtain a sufficient support, had engaged to take their places when they thought fit to discharge themselves. It happened fortunately for them, fortunately for the poor lead-miners, fortunately for the

county of Durham, that the military arrived in time to prevent the completion of their purpose. They were bold enough when the men they sought to crush were underground, but no sooner was a legitimate force opposed to them than they ran away like cowards, as they always were who felt a consciousness of guilt. He wished he could see before him the leader of their band, and that he were made to suffer the punishment he so well merited," &c. &c.

1831 (*Dec. 30*).—Died, at Framlington, in Northumberland, Elizabeth Headley, aged 107 years.

December.—Died, in St. Giles' workhouse, London, Mr. John Mitford. He was born at Mitford-castle, in Northumberland, had served as a sub-officer in the fleets under Hood and Nelson, and was related to the noble family of Redesdale, but whose depraved and vicious habits had long rendered him an alien to his kindred, and an outcast of society. His name will be long remembered in connexion with Lady Percival, in the Black-heath affair, for his share in which, he was tried but acquitted. For many years Mitford had lived by chance, and slept three nights out of the week in the open air, when his finances did not admit of his paying three-pence for a den in St. Giles.' Though formerly a nautical fop, for fourteen years before his death, he was ragged and loathsome; he never thought but for the necessities of the moment, and having had once given to him an elegant pair of Wellington boots, sold them for a shilling; the fellow who bought them put them in pawn for fifteen shillings, and came back in triumph with the money. "Ah" said Jack, "but he went out in the cold air for it." He was the author of "*Johnny Newcome in the Navy*." The publisher gave him a shilling a day till he finished it. Incredible as it may appear, he lived the whole of the time in Bayswater-fields, making a bed at night of grass and nettles. Two-penny worth of bread and cheese and an onion, was his daily food, the remainder of the shilling he expended in gin. He thus passed forty-three days, washing his shirt and stockings himself in a pond when he required *clean linen*. He was employed in the latter part of his life by publishers of a humble class, and of a *certain* description. Efforts had at various times been made to reclaim him, but without effect. A Mr. E——, a printer and publisher, having an eye to business, took him into the house, and endeavoured to render him "decent;" for a few days he was sober, and Lord Redesdale, (through the instrumentality of Mr. James Green, of Wills' Coffee-house, Portugal-street, who had been a brother officer of Mitford's, and fought with him at the battle of the Nile), enabled him to make a respectable appearance; indeed his lordship had numberless times evinced a disposition to support Mitford in respectability, but the wretched man was too deeply plunged in vice and low habits to be reclaimed. Whilst editing a catchpenny publication, Mr. E——, was obliged to keep him in a place, half kitchen and half cellar, where, with a loose grate tolerably filled, a candle, and a bottle of gin, he passed his days; and, with the covering of an old carpet, his nights; never issuing from his lair but when the bottle was empty. Some-

times he got furious with drink, and his shoes have been taken from him to prevent his emigrating ; he would then run out without them, and has taken off his coat in winter and sold it for half a pint of gin. A short time before his death, he wrote a song “ *The King is a true British Sailor,*” and sold it to seven different publishers. This miserable man was buried by his friend ; he left a wife and family, who had always been, and after Mitford’s death, were provided for by Lord Redesdale. His remains were deposited in St. Giles’s church-yard on the 30th of December. The funeral was of a most respectable description, and a considerable sum of money was given by the noble lord, to the paupers of St. Giles’ parish. The following is a copy of the last letter he ever wrote ; it shews that he ended his days in comparative comfort. The letter is addressed to one who had some hand in getting him into the work-house :—“ Sir,—I have been so changeable in my state, that sometimes I have not strength to hold a pen to thank you for the very great kindness I have experienced at your hands. The doctor is very humane and attentive, for I cannot forget what a wretched beggar I was for any of you to notice. My breath will never recover, and I firmly believe my lungs are decaying fast ; but I hope to get round, and yet live a few years on Lord Redesdale’s munificence, and my earthly saviour Mr. Green’s care. He said he would leave another sovereign, but I have no extravagances to gratify—fruits and other light things are all that I require—paper, pens, &c. I wish to go as near the mark as possible, as I place no faith in any future hopes. The nurse is truly honest, and accounts to me for every penny. Mr. Green, perhaps, mentioned to you about some clothes for me to sit up in, which I am sure would hasten my recovery—he thought he had an old dressing gown. If you, Sir, can favour me with your assistance on this great point, it will be an additional obligation conferred on an *improvident poor wretch*, who had no hope of twenty-four hours’ life, when you received him into this benevolent asylum. I am, Sir, Your truly obliged and obedient humble servant, JOHN MITFORD.”

1831.—This year, St. John’s church, in Newcastle, underwent a complete repair by the exterior of the tower being pointed with cement, and nearly the whole of the crocketed pinnacles upon the tower and the body of the church being in a very bad state, were replaced with new mason work, but preserving the original form.

1832 (*Jan. 11*).—Divine service was performed in the churches and various dissenting chapels in South Shields, prayers were offered up to God that the fearful disease then prevailing in the neighbourhood might be stayed. The day was strictly kept as a holiday, all business being suspended, and all the shops closed.

January 25.—This day, the Burns Club, of Newcastle, met to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the immortal bard by their accustomed annual dinner, at the house of Mrs. Richardson, the sign of the Three Indian Kings inn, on the Quay. The chair was taken by Mr. Thomas Small, who discharged the duties of president with that peculiar suavity of manner and exuberance of

humour for which he is distinguished. He was ably sustained by Mr. Edward Train, as vice-president. On the removal of the cloth, after the usual loyal toasts, the chairman rose, and in very felicitous terms, excused himself for not entering fully into the poetical character of the great national bard, the anniversary of whose birth they were met to celebrate; he felt the task to be perfectly unnecessary in a company who had shown themselves so feelingly alive to the merits of one whose exquisite strains had called forth unmingled admiration, not only in the land which gave him birth, but in every country where their beauties had been made known. In conclusion, Mr. S. begged to propose "The immortal memory of Robert Burns;" which was drunk standing, followed by three times three enthusiastic cheers. After this toast, the secretary of the club, Mr. W. G. Thompson, delivered a poetical address, (forming the eighth which he had prepared, in succession, for these interesting commemorations of poetical genius,) which contained some allusions both to the serious and the humorous efforts of Burns, and was loudly applauded. In the course of the evening several of the poet's best pieces were sung and recited; in particular, the "Address to the Deil," by Mr. G. Burdis was much applauded, and the exquisite song of "Highland Mary," was sung by the president with a touching pathos and sweetness which will not readily be forgotten by those who had the pleasure of hearing it. The toasts, which were chiefly from the works of Burns, were numerous, but not, however, to the exclusion of local genius; a brief but forcible tribute was paid to the memory of Mr. Thomas Thompson, the author of "Canny Newcastle," &c. and his song of "Weel may the Keel row," was finely sung by one of the members, assisted by four others in the chorus. On this occasion, the space behind the president was fitted up with several busts arranged in the following order: in the centre a bust of Burns, prepared expressly for the occasion by Mr. Dunbar, the sculptor, a member of the club; on the right of which stood busts of Byron and Milton, on the left those of Scott and Shakspeare, and in a niche on the left of the chair was placed a fine bust, by Mr. Dunbar, of Captain James Glencairn Burns, modelled whilst that gentleman was passing through Newcastle on his way to visit his venerable parent. The arrangement did Mr. Dunbar great credit, and imparted a splendid and imposing appearance to the apartment. A beautiful pen-and-ink drawing of Burns, by Mr. Train, vice-president, was also in the room, (a present from that gentleman to the club) and was much admired. The dinner and wines were excellent, and the harmony of the evening was maintained till a late hour under the unwearied auspices of the excellent chairman. This society, which is strictly private, was founded in the year 1820, previous to which time a public society, under the title of the "Newcastle Burns Club," held anniversary celebrations, which were announced by advertisement.

1832 (*Jan. 25*).—The rope house of Mr. Cameron, of Bishop-

wearmouth, was burnt down. The workmen had left some hours before the discovery of the fire, and such was the violence of the flames, aided by the combustible materials of the place, that the whole was consumed in a short time.

1832 (*Jan.* 28).—The Newcastle Courant newspaper of this day was increased by the addition of another column (making seven), to each page. In the address to readers, it is stated, that for years the average number sold was “upwards of 3,200 weekly.” Admitting this to be the case, it may very properly retain the motto “*HIC ET UBIQUE.*” February the 11th, a new and enlarged wood cut by Mr. R. E. Bewick, for the head of this Journal was first used.

January 30.—The right worshipful Archibald Reed, esq., mayor of Newcastle, had a select party to dinner at the mansion-house, to meet the following scientific and distinguished foreigners, viz.:—The Viscount Desfourneaux, from Paris; Professor and Doctor Delpaches, from Montpellier; Doctor Lewenhagen, from Moscow; and M. M. Laurisson, and Da Costa, from Switzerland. These gentlemen had visited Newcastle in order to make themselves acquainted with the phoenomena which characterized the spasmodic cholera in England. Men who come from the most distant parts of Europe to gather knowledge, to enable them to augment the sum of human happiness, are justly entitled to the highest respect of society, and in this instance the liberality of this worthy chief magistrate was highly conspicuous.

January.—This month, a female penitentiary was established at Sunderland, and two individuals had taken shelter under its roof, and several more applications had been made.

February 3.—About twenty gentlemen partook of an excellent supper at Mr. Robert Pace’s, sign of the White Swan, Cloth Market, Newcastle, on the occasion of presenting a bust and a handsome silver snuff-box, to Mr. William Gill Thompson, printer, the author of many ingenious poems and tales. The bust, which had been previously exhibited in the Northern Academy of Arts, was the first effort of Mr. R. S. Scott, and is an excellent likeness. Mr. D. Hobkirk presided, and the vice chair was filled by Mr. W. Oliver, who gratified the company with a comic song, full of point and humour, written by him for the occasion. Amongst the company were Messrs. Small, Dunbar, Train, Carmichael, Balmer, Archer, Dodds, and other mutual friends of the parties, who spent the evening with the utmost zest and good feeling.

February 3.—A fire broke out in the paint manufactory of Messrs. Gibson and Todd, South Shields, which, in an hour and a half, intirely destroyed the valuable stock and premises. As there was a large quantity of oil, turpentine, rosin, and other inflammables on the premises, great apprehension was entertained that it would spread to the property adjoining, but through the prompt exertions made to extinguish the fire, and the speedy arrival and efficient operation of the engine from North Shields, this was happily prevented. The fire was occasioned by the boiling over

of a copper of oil. Great praise was due to Mr. Fairles to whose able and well directed efforts, the preservation of the steam flour-mill, and other property adjoining, was mainly to be attributed.

1832 (*Feb. 5*).—The old Roman Catholic chapel, Cockshaw, Hexham, (a new one having been built), was opened as a place of worship, in connexion with the United Secession Church of Scotland, by the Rev. D. C. Browning, of Newcastle, who preached three times to crowded audiences; after each service, liberal collections were made in aid of the funds.

February 13.—At twelve o'clock at noon on this day (Monday), the old bridge at Morpeth was closed up and rendered impassable for all but foot-passengers, at the same time the new bridge was opened out for the use of the public on payment of toll. The old bridge, from its construction and decayed state having become inconvenient and dangerous, and many accidents having happened thereon, an act of parliament was obtained for the erection of a new bridge over the river Wansbeck, at the town of Morpeth. This act received the royal assent, June 1st, 1829.

February 18.—About one o'clock in the afternoon of this day (Saturday), the boiler of the steam engine attached to Messrs. Wheatley and Co's. forge, at the foot of the Swirle, in Sandgate, Newcastle, burst with tremendous violence. Such was the force of the explosion, that masses of brick, stone, wood, in fact, almost all the interior of the building was scattered in every direction. The top and sides of the boiler being torn from the bottom, were carried through the roof of the forge, and, after ascending to a great height in the air, came down on Messrs. Angas and Co's. bonding warehouse, which was three stories high, and situated on the opposite side of the street, breaking through the roof, and lodging on the second floor of the building, breaking some of the strong beams of that floor. The explosion was attended with a lamentable loss of life. Mary Temple, aged 11 years, who was near the spot at the moment of the accident, was wounded by the falling of the walls, and severely scalded, and died on the Monday following. William M'Nare, the forgerman, employed at the works, aged 51 years, Matthew Seymour M'Nare, his son, aged 10 years, who happened to be on the premises, were so severely scalded, that they survived but a short time. George Charlton, aged 32 years, and a female, named Susan Handley, aged 10 years, afterwards died in consequence. Robert Stewart, John Lowrey, and John Dawson, were also severely injured. Part of the sufferers were removed to the infirmary, where every attention was paid to them. Three or four others were scalded but not seriously. On the Monday an inquest was held on the five bodies, when the jury returned a verdict of *accidental death*; but desired it to be stated, that the man entrusted with the care of the engine was not equal to the duties of his situation. It was generally reported that he had had the valve of the boiler tied down with a rope, for the purpose of having a good start on the forgerman recommencing work after dinner, and thus allowing the steam to attain an

improper power. It was somewhat singular, that the engineman was sitting with his daughter close to the boiler when it blew up, and both escaped unhurt.

1832 (*Feb. 21*).—Died, at his house, in Eldon Place, Newcastle, after a few hours' illness, Mr. Eneas Mackenzie, printer and publisher, aged 54 years. Mr. Mackenzie was known to the public as the author of a History of Northumberland, a History of Newcastle, and of several other works, and at the time of his death he was engaged in compiling a history of Durham, about one-half of which was published at the time of his demise. He was the proposer and active promoter of the Mechanics' Institution, in Newcastle. He was born in Aberdeenshire, from whence his parents removed to Newcastle, when he was only three years old. When a young man he worked with his father as a shoemaker, and afterwards became a minister of the Baptist persuasion. He next commenced business as a broker in Sunderland, but this not answering his expectations, he returned to Newcastle and opened a school, which he abandoned for his final occupation, that of a printer and publisher in the number and periodical way. As a public man he was conspicuous, being the chairman of the memorable political meeting held on the town-moor of Newcastle, on October the 11th, 1819, on the transactions at Manchester; and more recently as one of the secretaries of the Northern Political Union. There is an engraved portrait of Mr. Mackenzie, and a bust of him is about to be placed in the Mechanics' Institution by a subscription of the members. Mr. M. fell a victim to the cholera, then raging in Newcastle and its vicinity.

February 24.—Died, at Berwick, Mr. James Lee, aged 100 years, during a great part of which he had lived in the service of the late Sir Carnaby Haggerston, bart., and his father, Sir Thomas Haggerston.

February 25.—This day (Saturday), the hon. Sir Edward Hall Alderson, knt., and the hon. Sir John Patteson, knt., judges of assize, arrived at Newcastle, from Carlisle. They were met about five o'clock in the evening by the high sheriff of Northumberland (George Silvertop, esq.), near the top of the bank leading to Denton-burn, on the Carlisle road, about three miles from Newcastle. The prevalence of cholera morbus in the northern district, it was said had caused this alteration, as the judges of assize had not arrived at Newcastle from the west from time immemorial. *See the year 1278, vol. i. page 29.*

This month, the complete enclosure of St. Nicholas' church in Newcastle, by iron railing, was perfected; the old wooden paling, upon a brick parapet wall, which had encircled the cemetery, having, from length of time, failed in different parts, was replaced with a stone parapet wall and lofty iron rails, which terminated on the east side of the south door way, as shewn in the annexed cut. This recess becoming a perfect nuisance, it was determined that the wall and railing should be brought round the west side of the door, thus encircling the cemetery and the whole body of the

church. The cemetery only, was first encircled in May, 1761. *See vol. i. page 234.* A great portion of the old wooden paling on the south side, opposite to the vestry, was thrown down by the pressure of the crowd at the interment of the late Rev. John Smith, vicar. *See Jan. 22d, page 193.*



1832 (*March 3*).—The bonds of the pitmen of the rivers Tyne and Wear being near a close, they had a general meeting, on the above day, at Boldon Fell, in the county of Durham. The men began to arrive from their respective collieries shortly after nine o'clock, and, by eleven o'clock, it was supposed that there were between 7,000 and 8,000 on the ground. There were about fifty banners, with various mottoes and devices; one of them was surrounded with a deep border of crape, but was so with reference only to the death of a person at the colliery to which it belonged. This meeting was for the purpose of not agreeing with the coal-owners for the next twelve months, unless they would bind the men belonging to the Union, and *divorce* the 2d and 7th articles from the bond, &c. Mr. T. Hepburn (*chairman*) enforced the necessity of all their future proceedings being legal, and regretted the acts of several of the pitmen, some of whom were then being punished accordingly. The other speakers were Waddle, Parkinson, Arkle, and Atkinson, who all urged the necessity of supporting the Union for the maintenance of each other, as no less than 10,000*l.* had been paid in the last twelve months from its funds. They also

deprecated, in strong terms, the outrages which had been committed at Kenton, Walldridge, &c. At this meeting an advance of wages was not alluded to. After a few personalities had been vented against certain individuals, and the thanks of the meeting given to various others, the meeting quietly dispersed.

1832 (*March 4*).—The Rev. J. Reed was presented to the vicarage of Newburn, near Newcastle, vacant by the death of the Rev. Jas. Edmondson, who fell a victim to the cholera morbus, whilst that disease was raging in that village. No divine service having been performed there for some time, in consequence of Mr. Edmondson's death, on the above day (Sunday), the church was crowded to excess, and Mr. Reed, after concluding a very impressive sermon, gave notice that he was then going to read the funeral service over their late vicar, and, immediately proceeding to the church-yard, was followed by about six hundred people, first to the grave of the vicar, and then to that of those who had been buried under similar circumstances, without the rites of the church having been performed over them. This was a solemn and affecting scene to the inhabitants of Newburn, where the effects of the cholera had been so awful.

March 7.—A melancholy occurrence took place in Beamish colliery, in the county of Durham. In consequence of an unexpected rush of water, William Millar, the viewer, and Robert Moody were drowned; a third man escaped with difficulty. March 23, after the water had been considerably drawn off, the bodies were found in a most shocking condition. On taking the shoes from Moody, his feet separated with them. He left a widow far advanced in pregnancy, and four children. The bodies were interred at Tanfield, on the following day.

March 7.—In the evening, a young man, named George Henderson, a cabinet maker, in the Dog Bank, Newcastle, who, along with others, was in the habit of going to St. Nicholas' belfrey to practice the hand bells, in consequence of the hatchway of the first floor of the tower having that afternoon been left open, unfortunately fell a height of upwards of 70 feet, on to the flagged floor of the church, and was almost instantly killed. The following evening an inquest was held before Richard Hill Gee, esq., one of the coroners for Newcastle, on the body, when a verdict of "*Accidental Death*," was returned, and the jury unanimously passed a vote of censure for the gross negligence of the parties who had left the said hatchway open, without having given due notice thereof. In consequence of this steeple having alarmingly shrunk it had been plumbed, and the plumb-line left hanging down the hatchway. For a view of the under part of this hatchway, see *vol. i. page 63*.

March 8.—Died, at Alnmouth, Mr. John Adams, aged 94 years. He was a man of peculiar habits, and entertained atheistical principles, of which he did not hesitate the avowal. He had been originally intended, and was educated, for the profession of the law; but reverses had changed his course, and he became devoted to philosophical speculations. Mr. Adams at one time taught

a school in Longhoughton, but, growing apparently more cynical with age, he finally withdrew from society, becoming in a manner a recluse, with no companion but his dog. The door of his mansion, in the village of Alnmouth, was carefully locked both on his exit and his entrance, and he was often the object of unprovoked insult from juvenile wantonness and unenlightened manhood. He was a man of an acute intellect; his conversation, on general subjects, was engaging and instructive, and his remarks on every thing connected with his peculiar opinions, were pointedly keen and satirical. His features were good, his aspect serene and contemplative. He always disdained to accept of parish allowance, and his diet must have been the most sparing imaginable. He was never married, and, notwithstanding his cynical habits, possessed naturally great benevolence. His body was interred in Belford church-yard, on the 12th.



1832 (*March 8*).—The report of Mr. John Dobson, architect, on the state of St. Nicholas' church steeple in Newcastle, was submitted to a meeting of a committee of the common council, at which the churchwardens attended. It attributed the shrinking, which had excited so much alarm, to the injury which had been done to the foundations by interments in the inside of the church, and by a common sewer on the west side of it having been made too deep, and too near the building. The expense of efficiently securing the pillars of the steeple, by masonry and iron bars, was estimated at £1,200., to be defrayed partly by the corporation, and partly by the parish, if the parishioners should approve of the measures which were

considered necessary for the safety of the building. Some alarm having again been felt for the safety of this beautiful steeple, the vicar of Newcastle applied to the architects, Messrs. Dobson and Green, who were engaged in superintending the repairs, to know whether it was well or ill founded. These gentlemen gave the following answers:—"New Bridge-street, 21st April, 1832. Reverend Sir,—As it appears that the congregation of St. Nicholas' are in some degree alarmed at the state of the tower, I beg to say in answer to your request, that I have no apprehension of any sudden failure of the building, so as to endanger the lives of the parishioners, although it be desirable, in order to avoid interruption, that the week day's service should be discontinued for the present. I remain, Reverend Sir, your obedient servant, JOHN DOBSON."

"To the Reverend the vicar of Newcastle—Reverend Sir—In

answer to your enquiries respecting the safety of St. Nicholas' church steeple, the foundation of which is now being laid open for my inspection. I beg to state that I do not think the structure in danger of falling at the present. I am, Reverend Sir, your obedient servant, JOHN GREEN. Northumberland Place, Newcastle, Monday Morning, 23d April, 1832." The foundations of the pillars of the tower were laid open in the interior of the church, exposing many coffins, vaults, &c., which were removed to other parts of the church, and several courses of very large stones were laid from pillar to pillar, the foundations of which were found to be in a very bad state. I have been informed by a builder, who for many years had paid particular attention to the shrinking of this tower, that always after these cracks had been filled up they soon opened again. These rents have become alarming lately, probably accelerated by the great weight of iron, stone, and lead which had a few years before been added to the top. Immense bars of iron have been put through the tower, as binders, and screw-bolted on the outsides, and every means adopted to secure the structure from falling.—For an account of this steeple, see *vol. i. page 50.*

1832 (*March 10*).—Between 8 and 9 o'clock at night a fire was discovered in the manufactory of Messrs. R. and W. Hawthorn, engineers, &c., at the foot of the Forth Banks, Newcastle, which speedily assumed a very alarming appearance. The engines were immediately sent for, and, in the mean time, a number of persons endeavoured to arrest the progress of the fire, by throwing buckets of water upon it. After the arrival of the engines, some time elapsed before they could be got into efficient operation, owing to a bad supply of water, and they were a considerable time in full play before any visible effect was produced. About half-past nine o'clock, the roof fell in with a heavy crash, and the flames, which had before been partially confined, rose in a broad mass into the air. At this time the utmost fears were entertained for the contiguous range of tenemented houses, situated on the lower side of the manufactory, and leading to the Close, but, by the well-directed efforts of the engine, from the banks above, and the continued operation of those below, the danger was happily averted. About one o'clock on the morning, the fire was in a great measure subdued, and before four o'clock was quite extinguished, not, however, until the whole of the manufactory, with the exception of the offices, was reduced to a mass of ruins. The engines present were, one from the foundry of Messrs. Cookson and Co., in the Close, one from Messrs. Walker's, Parker's, and Co.'s lead works, and one each from the Newcastle, the Sun, and the North British fire offices. A detachment of infantry, and the dragoons from the barracks, were soon on the spot, and a party of the Northumberland and Newcastle Volunteer Cavalry were also early in attendance. How the fire originated could not be ascertained; it broke out in a room immediately above the engine, and it was conjectured to have been

* Mr. T. M. Richardson, artist, of Newcastle, is about to publish an interior and exterior view of this structure, during these operations.

occasioned by the heat. The damage was estimated at nearly £5,000., of this the loss in patterns was about £2,000., the remainder arose from the destruction of the building, the machinery in use, and the articles in the progress of manufacture. The stock and premises were insured for about £2,000. A loss, which operated very severely, was that of the tools of the workmen, chiefly millwrights, which were consumed. A man of the name of Thomas Thirlaway, in the employ of Messrs. Cookson, unfortunately got his leg broken whilst assisting to get out Messrs. Cookson's engine.

1832 (*March 21*).—Being the day (Wednesday) appointed for a general fasting and humiliation, on account of the grievous plague wherewith it had pleased divine Providence to afflict this country, was observed in Newcastle with all the solemnity befitting the occasion. All the shops in the town and neighbourhood, with few exceptions, were closed, the manufactories were off work, and the day seemed to be generally considered as a Sabbath day. Suitable sermons were delivered at all the churches and chapels, which were unusually well attended. The day was most religiously observed at Durham, Sunderland, South Shields and North Shields, Alnwick, and all the neighbouring towns.

March 22.—Mrs. Mayoress gave a grand ball and supper at the Mansion-house in Newcastle. From a laudable desire to serve the tradesmen who had all suffered in some degree from the previous visitation (cholera), it was resolved that this should be a fancy, as well as a dress ball. The gaiety and splendour in which many of the guests appeared, shewed their readiness to meet the wish of the hostess; while the number of the gentry, not only of the town, but of the adjoining counties of Northumberland and Durham, afforded a flattering testimony of the estimation in which the chief magistrate and his lady were held. The exterior of the Mansion-house was decorated with variegated lamps, and the interior was tastefully adorned with flowers and evergreens. The company (who had been invited by card) began to arrive at 9 o'clock, and continued to arrive, with little intermission, till after 11. Notwithstanding the number of carriages, from the arrangements which were made as to their arrival and departure, all confusion was avoided. The ball was led off at 10 o'clock by the sheriff of Newcastle (W. A. Surtees, esq.) and Miss Reed. Dancing continued in the Oak Room, where a band under the direction of Mr. Bagnall attended, and the Hall, where the band of the Newcastle and Northumberland Volunteer Cavalry played, till 12 o'clock, when supper was announced. The viands were such as became the hospitality of the Mansion-house of Newcastle. After supper, dancing was resumed, and continued till nearly 6 o'clock on the morning. The attention and urbanity of the host and hostess were unremitting, and greatly enhanced the pleasure of the ball. Among the fancy dresses, those which attracted most attention were the personifications of Napoleon Buonaparte, Duroc, Charles the Second, Rochester, an Indian bridegroom, the Duc de Vendôme, a courtier of George the First's reign, a Persian Prince, a

Turkish chief, Billy Lack-a-day, Doctor Pangloss, &c. &c. Several of the ladies were in superb dresses, and some of them added to their charms by assuming the costumes of Swiss and French peasants, Poles, &c. They had one fault only: they were too magnificent for the persons they represented. The whole assembly presented an exhilarating spectacle, where beauty and splendour appeared to rival each other. There were between 500 and 600 persons present. Mr. Mayor (Archibald Reed, esq.), in full dress, with ornaments of office; Mrs. Mayoress, splendid fancy dress; Mr. Arthur Reed, an Esquimaux; Miss Reed, fancy dress; Miss M. A. Reed, a French peasant; Miss Helen Reed, Highland girl; Mr. J. Reed, full dress; Mr. A. Reed, jun., an Oriental dress (worn by Tippoo Saib); Miss Abbs, a peasant of the Pyrenees; Mr. Adamson, King Henry VIII; Miss Adamson and Miss Fife, ladies of his court; Mr. Matt. Anderson, plain dress; Mr. Anderson, fancy dress; Mr. J. Anderson, Russian; Mrs. A. fancy dress; Mr. D. Akenhead, full dress; Dr. Alexander, a Genoese; Mrs. A., fancy dress; Mr. and Mrs. Allhusen, court dresses; Mr. W. A., full dress; Mr. C. A., German student; Mr. Archbold, full dress; Mr. W. Armstrong, plain dress; Mr. Askew, plain dress; Mrs. Atkinson, fancy dress; two Misses Baker, Neapolitan and Turkish costumes; Captain Battersby, Napoleon Bonaparte, (an excellent personification), accompanied by Duroc, Lieutenant Houblon, afterwards Caspar in *Der Frieschutz*; Mrs. Bates, Milbourne-hall, full dress; Mr. B. court dress; Miss B., Rosine in *Les Deux Familles*; Miss S. B., flower girl; Mr. Bates, court dress; Mrs. Bell, full dress; Mrs. Bell, court dress; Mr. Bell, yeomanry uniform; Miss B. Neapolitan costume; Mr. Henry Bell, court dress; Mrs. B., fancy dress; two Misses B., Tyroliennes; Miss Bellairs, fancy dress; Mr. Bellany, plain; Captain Benson, a Mahomedan chief; Mr. Charles Bigge, 13th Light Dragoons; Mr. H. Bolckow, full dress; Mrs. S. Boyd, Swiss peasant; Mr. Robert Boyd and Miss B. fancy dresses; Mrs. Wm. Brandling, full dress; two Misses Brandling, court dresses; Mr. Ralph Brandling, Spanish troubadour; Mr. Brandling, Yorkshire hussars; Mr. Brummell, uniform; Miss B., fancy dress; Misses Brummell, full dress; Dr. Bulman, court dress; Mr. Campbell, jun., Greek chief, Colocotroni; Miss C., Neapolitan costume; Miss Henrietta C., French costume; Colonel Campbell, Newcastle Hussars; Mrs. C., a fancy dress; Mr. George Carr, and the two Misses Carr, Russian costume; Mr. H. Carr, Hamlet; Mr. J. M. Chapman, uniform of the Newcastle and Northumberland Volunteer Cavalry; Mr. Forster Charlton, uniform Northumberland Militia; Mrs. C., full dress; Mr. and Mr. W. Clark, full dress; Miss Elizabeth Clerk, Spanish; Miss Jane C., Bernese; Mr. C. W. Collingwood, Sir Peter Teazle, very well dressed and supported; Mr. Collingwood, court dress; H. J. W. Collingwood (High Sheriff of Northumberland), uniform; Mrs. C., fancy dress; Mrs. Collinson, full dress; Miss Eleanor C., a Heidelberg peasant; Mr. R. C., as Michael Scott, the Wizard; the Misses C., Calabrian peasants; Miss C., an Utopian princess: the Rev. Mr. and Miss Cook, full,

dress ; Mrs. Thomas Cookson, and two Misses Cookson, mourning dresses ; Mr. J. C., jun., uniform ; Mr. C. C., uniform of the Tenth Hussars ; Mr. John and the Misses Cookson, Gateshead Park, mourning dresses ; Misses Coulson, fancy dresses ; Mr. G. W. Cram, Persian ; Miss Cram, Spanish lady ; Alderman Cramlington, and Miss Cramlington, full dress ; Mr. Thomas Crawhall, uniform ; Mr. Joseph C., full dress ; Mr. W. Crichton, full dress ; Captain Dale, uniform ; Mrs. D., full dress ; Miss Dale, (Dockwray Square), fancy dress ; Mrs. Depledge, full dress ; Mr. and Mrs. Dixon Dixon, full dress ; Miss Dobson, a lady of the 16th century ; Miss Donkin, fancy dress ; Mr. Downing, court dress of George II., very good ; Mr. E. D., a sailor, excellently dressed and supported ; Mr. R. D., and Miss D., fancy dresses ; Mr. Dunbar, plain dress ; Mrs. and Miss Dutton, fancy dresses ; Mr. D., jun., uniform Tyne Hussars ; Mr. Edgcome, plain dress ; Captain Ellis, fancy dress ; Miss E., Amy Robsart ; Miss Ellison, French costume ; Miss Margaret Ellison, Illyrian ; Mr. P. G. Ellison, royal archer ; Mr. Ettrick, Turkish costume ; Mr. Errington, High Warden, Albanian soldier ; Miss E., a Tuscan peasant ; Messrs. G. and F. Ewart, court dresses ; Mr. and Mrs. Fairles, and two Misses F., full dresses ; Mr. T. Fenwick, Turk ; Mrs. F., full dress ; two Misses F., Swiss girls : Mrs. C. Fenwick, full dress ; Miss F., Rosina ; and Miss S. F., a young lady of Queen Anne's reign ; Mr. T. W. Fenwick, brigand chief ; Mr. George Fenwick, court of George III ; Mr. T. Fenwick, plain dress ; Alderman Forster, plain dress ; Mr. Forster, Northumberland-street, Turkish costume ; Miss Fothergill, plain dress ; Mr. Charles Fox, Swiss dress ; Miss Fox, full dress Mr. Fryer, plain dress ; Miss Gothard, full dress ; Mr. George Gouthwaite, Charles II., excellent costume ; Miss Graham, Anne Page ; Mr. Greenhow, court dress ; Mr. W. Greenwell, plain dress ; Mr. Charles Griffith, full dress ; Mr. Gully, brigand chief ; Mr. Harbottle, court dress ; Mr. Jos. and Mrs. Hawks, full dresses ; Mr. George Hawks, adjutant to Lord Durham, commander of the Templars ; Miss Headlam, fancy dress ; Dr. Mrs. and Miss Headlam, full dresses ; Mrs. Headlam, full dress ; Mr. and Miss Heath, Greeks ; Mr. T. and two Misses Hedley, plain dresses ; Mr. Hewitson, old court dress ; Miss Hickson, (Ripon), Milanese peasant girl, in holiday garb ; Mr. G. W. Hodge, sailor ; Mrs. H. full dress ; and three Misses H., fancy dresses ; Mr. and Mrs. George Hodgson, full dress ; Mr. Thomas Hodgson, plain dress ; Mr. James Hodgson, plain dress ; Dr. Home, Highland chief ; Mr. Hood, Duc de Vendome ; Mrs. H., Frances de Lorrain, Duchess de Vendome ; Miss H., peasant of Murcia, Spain ; Captain Hope, Yorkshire Hussars ; Mr. Hoyle, full dress ; Mr. Rich. H., Spanish costume ; Mr. J. T. Hoyle, Rodolph, in Der Frieschutz ; Mr. F. Humble, plain dress ; Lieut. Huoy, uniform ; Mrs. H., fancy dress ; Mr. W. Hustler, the Young Pretender, and afterwards Dr. Pangloss ; Miss Collinson Hutchinson, archeress, gold and green ; Mr. J. H., William, in Black-eyed Susan, afterwards as a broom girl, and Billy Lack-a-Day, (very good) ; Mrs. H., fancy dress ; Dr. and Mrs. Hutchinson, fancy dress ; Mr. Ilderton, full court dress ; Mrs. I., full dress ; Miss I., splendid dress ; Miss H. I.,

Swiss peasant girl ; Mr. C. I., a sailor ; Captain Innes, R. N., full dress ; Miss, and Miss Harriet I., plain dresses ; Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, full dress Mr. C. F. Jackson, Black Brunswick Hussar ; Mr. E. J. Jackson, Tyne Hussars ; Miss Jamieson, full dress ; Mr. C. Jaques, Yorkshire Hussars ; Miss Jaques, Neapolitan ; Mr., Mrs., and Miss Jobling, Newton-hall, full dresses ; Mr. J. Jobling, Wallsend hunt dress ; Miss M. and Miss I. Jobling, Spanish costume, province of Murcia ; Mr. M. L. Jobling, a Saracen ; Miss D. Jobling, Turkish fancy dress ; Mr. T. W. Jobling, Circassian ; Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, full dress ; Mr. Johnson, full dress ; Mrs. Keenlyside, Swiss ; Mrs. Kell, fancy dress ; the Rev. Mr. Kempson, plain dress ; Mr. G. A. Lambert, Mrs. and Miss L., plain dresses ; Mr. G. Lambert, Wallsend hunt dress ; Mr. R., full dress ; Mr. N. G., a Spanish Don ; Miss Lambert, Alnwick, a lady of the 15th century ; Mr. J. Leadbitter, court dress ; Mrs. and Miss Liddell, (Shieldfield), plain ; Mr. G. Liddell, (Shieldfield), court dress of George I. ; Miss Linskill, Catalonian costume ; Mr. T. Loggan, plain dress ; Misses Loraine, fancy dresses ; Miss Loraine, fancy dress ; Misses Losh, Swiss peasants ; Mr. R. W. L., a German from the Hartz mountains ; Mrs. L., full dress ; Mr. Mackreth, court dress ; Mr. Mackintosh, full dress ; Mr. James Mc Intyre, uniform of the Northumberland Yeomanry Cavalry ; Dr. Mc Whirter, plain dress ; Mr. Mellar, full dress ; Miss M., Spanish lady, full dress ; Miss I. H. M., Neapolitan, full dress ; Mr. Henry A. Mitchell, plain dress ; Dr. and Mrs. Morson, full dresses ; Miss Morton, a lady of the last century (admirably dressed and supported) ; Mr. and Mrs. A. Nicholl, full dress ; Miss Norman, Pyrenese dress ; Officers of the 15th Foot, in full dress uniforms ; Mr. Ord, as fellow commoner of Oxford ; Miss Otter, full dress ; Mr. Ormsby, court dress ; Mr. Paget, court dress ; Mrs. P., a Swiss lady ; Mr. S. Parker, jun., uniform of the Newcastle and Northumberland Volunteer Cavalry ; Mr. Charles P., ditto ; Mr. H. P. Parker, a Brigand ;* Mr. R. S. Pemberton, fancy dress ; Mrs. T. Pemberton, a Turkish lady ; Mr. T. Pemberton, fancy dress ; Mr. Pitts, plain dress ; Captain Pitts, R. N., wearing the order of the Tower and Sword ; Mr. and Mrs. R. Plummer, full dress ; Mr. Jos. Pollard, jun., plain ; Mr. Thos. and Miss P., Swiss ; Mr. A. G. Potter, in uniform ; Captain Potts, uniform of the Northumberland Militia ; Mrs. P., full dress ; Mr. Price, full dress ; Miss Purvis, fancy dress ; the Officers of the Queen's Bays, in uniform ; Mrs. and the Miss Reeds (Durham), fancy dresses ; Mr. G. T. Railston, as a Black Brunswick Hussar ; Mr. Charles Raine, Greek costume ; Mr. Rankin, Roman consul ; Miss R., fancy dress ; Mr. and Mrs. Redhead, full dress ; Miss Redhead, Polish costume ; Miss Hannah Redhead, Austrian costume ; Mr. Henry Redhead, fancy dress ; Lady and two Misses Ridley, full dress of mourning ; Captain R., uniform of the Northumberland Cavalry ; Mr. Rippon, Tyne Hussars ; Mr. G. Selby, full dress ; Mr. Alderman Shadforth, plain dress ; Mrs. S., fancy

* Mr. Henry Perlee Parker, artist, of Newcastle, is at present engaged in painting a picture of this grand fancy dress ball. The grouping is excellent, and the principle characters appear to be very ably represented.

dress ; Miss F. S., ball dress of a French Pyrenese ; Mr. Henry Shield, as Rochester ; the Rev. Mr. Shute, plain dress ; Miss F. S., flower girl : Mr. Small, uniform of the Tyne Hussars ; Mr. W. and Mrs. Smith, Turkish costume ; Mr. Thomas Smith, jun., full dress of the Northumberland Hunt ; Miss Smith, fancy dress ; Mr. Smith, Togstone, plain dress ; two Misses Sorsbie, full dress ; Mr. S., jun., Polish costume ; Miss Spence, full dress ; Mr. Stanley, Albanian soldier, (well supported) ; Mr. D. E. and Mrs. Stephens, North Shields, Spanish dresses ; Mrs. Alderman Surtees, and two Misses S., mourning dresses ; Mr. S., Sheriff of Newcastle, a Spanish grandee ; Mr. Fitzroy Surtees, Young Norval ; Mr. Spedding, an Indian bridegroom ; Miss Taylor, ball dress ; Mr. Thompson, Swiss ; Mr. W. Thompson, sailor ; Mr. Thompson, uniform ; Mr. Tinley, plain dress ; Mr. Tinley, jun., a sailor ; Mr. Nicholas Walton, court dress ; Mr. Watson, uniform of the Percy Tenantry ; Mr. Watson, uniform of the Newcastle and Northumberland Volunteer Cavalry ; Miss Wawn, full dress ; Miss Werge, French peasant ; Captain West, R. N., full uniform ; and Mrs. West, fancy dress ; Captain Weston, Mussulman ; Miss White, a Grecian princess ; Dr. White, court dress ; Mr. John Williamson, Durham, Persian dress, actually made in Persia, richly ornamented with jewels of great value ; Mr. Wilson, plain dress ; Mr. Winstanley, a Swiss counsellor of the 14th century ; Captain Woods, uniform of the Northumberland and Newcastle Volunteer Cavalry ; the two Misses Wright, Swiss ; Dr. White, plain dress.

1832 (*March 26*).—A fancy dress ball took place at the Assembly-rooms, in Newcastle. It commenced in the large room, and was attended by upwards of 200 ladies and gentlemen. At a quarter past ten o'clock the ball was led off by the sheriff of Newcastle (W. A. Surtees, esq.,) and the lady of H. J. W. Collingwood, esq., high sheriff of Northumberland, and was kept up with great spirit until after three o'clock on the morning. The company had a most splendid appearance in the room, many of the characters being well supported ; but as most of them had appeared in the same costume a few nights previous, to enumerate them a second time would be quite uninteresting.

This month, died, the celebrated race horse XYZ, the winner of many gold cups, and the property of R. Riddell, esq., of Felton Park, in Northumberland.

April 6.—The first stone of a new chapel of ease was laid at Duddo, in the parish of Norham, by the Rev. William Stephen Gilly, vicar, in the presence of a great number of the inhabitants.

April 9.—A grand fancy dress ball given by the gentlemen of Durham and its neighbourhood, took place at the Assembly-rooms there ; and it may be truly said that a more splendid display was never witnessed within the walls of that ancient city on any previous occasion. The rooms were tastefully decorated with banners and with a profusion of evergreens and flowers, under the direction of Messrs. Clark and Robson. Shortly before 10 o'clock, the whole of the company, comprising the *elite* of the county, had arrived, when the *coup d'œil* was picturesque and brilliant in the

extreme, the rooms, in fact, presenting one blaze of beauty, grace, and loveliness. Nor was the dazzling splendour of the scene a little enhanced by the rich and elegant dresses of the ladies, which every where shone conspicuous. It would be a difficult task adequately to describe the various costumes or the different characters. Suffice it then to say, that the former comprised those of almost every nation, whilst the latter were sustained with infinite spirit, tact, and humour. The full band was ably led by Wetherell, and executed during the evening many delightful performances. At ten o'clock the votaries of Terpsichore began to "trip it on the light fantastic toe," and the ball opened with a lively country dance, led off by Colonel Cookson, of Witton Hall, and Miss Chaytor, which was followed by quadrilles, gallopades, and waltzes. Supper was announced at half-past twelve, when upwards of 230 sat down to the costly banquet. The wines, including champagne, burgundy, claret, hock, bucellas, barsac, &c., were of the choicest and richest quality, and were supplied in the greatest possible profusion. George Hutton Wilkinson, esq., of Harperley Park, presided, and discharged the duties of the chair in a very felicitous and efficient manner. Robert Henry Allan, esq., of Durham, officiated as Vice-president, and Captain Cumby, R. N., C. B., presided in the second room. Dancing was resumed at half-past two o'clock, and was kept up with unabated spirit until a late hour on the morning. The subjoined is a list of the donors of this splendid entertainment, those marked thus* being the committee of management. —W. C. Harland, esq., Sutton Hall; J. Fawcett, esq., Durham; *Anthony Wilkinson, esq., Coxhoe Hall; Thomas Maude, esq., Selaby; J. Stapylton, esq., Norton; John Allan, esq., Blackwell; William Allan, esq., Blackwell Grange; *Robert Henry Allan, esq., Durham; *John Gregson, jun., esq., Durham; George Ornsby, esq., Durham; T. Griffith, esq., Durham; H. J. Ellis, esq., Findon House; W. Harland, esq., Durham; R. D. Shafto, esq., Whitworth Park; T. Pemberton, esq., Barnes; John Trotter, esq., M.D., Durham; *Henry Stapylton, esq., Durham; G. Wilkinson, esq., Durham; W. C. Chaytor, esq., Durham; Edward Shipperdson, esq., Durham; J. W. Williamson, esq., Whickham; T. Greenwell, esq., Durham; George Hutton Wilkinson, esq., Harperley Park; Rowland Burdon, jun., esq., Castle Eden; Walter Scruton, esq., Durham; *J. W. Hays, esq., Durham; *Rev. T. R. Shipperdson, Durham; George Townsend Fox, esq., Durham; Cuthbert Rippon, esq., Stanhope Castle; Captain Cumby, R.N., C. B., Heighington; W. T. Salvin, esq., Croxdale; Colonel Shadforth, Durham; J. D. Lambton, esq., Durham; *William Mills, esq., Newton Hall; Thomas Cookson, esq., Hermitage; John Dunn, esq., Durham; Henry Donkin, esq., Durham; Sir William Chaytor, bart., Witton Castle; Edward Johnson, esq., Chester Deanery; Thomas Wade, jun., esq., Silksworth; Edward Clavering, jun., esq., Durham; R. A. Atkinson, esq., Plawsworth Cottage; Colonel Cookson, Witton Hall; Robert Surtees, esq., Redworth House; John Bowes, esq., Streatlam castle.

1832 (*April 14*).—The pitmen of the rivers Tyne and Wear held a

general meeting of their body at the Black Fell, near Wreckenton, in the county of Durham, to the number of about 9,000. The greater part of them walked in procession, carrying banners, &c. About eleven o'clock Mr. T. Hepburn, as usual, was called to the chair. After the chairman had opened the proceedings, several other speakers in succession addressed the pitmen, all of whom enforced the necessity of supporting the union, which they said would eventually baffle the machinations of their employers. Before closing the meeting, the chairman addressed the people in a very encouraging strain—let them (he said) make a few sacrifices, twelve months would teach them a vast of experience; things would come round in such a way that there would be need of more pitmen than were ever employed in England before, as pits were then being sunk to the north and south of them, and in Lincolnshire, all of which would want men. It had been said that they ought to get knowledge; he would teach them how to do that—let itinerating libraries be established among all the collieries, that might be done for about a shilling a man in the year, and that, he thought, was obtaining knowledge at a cheap rate. In conclusion, he urged them to part quietly, and let the world see their determination to support good order. The meeting then broke up, the men formed under their respective banners, and left the place of meeting in the most peaceable manner.

1832 (*April 19*).—The sale of some detached portions of the Greenwich Hospital estates in Cumberland and Northumberland which had been long previously advertised, took place in the great room of the auction mart, London, Mr. George Robins, auctioneer. Cumberland being out of *my district*, I shall only state that the enchanting Keswick estate in that county, containing 2,376 acres, was sold to Mr. Marshall, M. P., the first and only bidder, for 30,000 guineas. In Northumberland, the manor of Meldon, including Meldon Park estate and farms, five miles from Morpeth, with Meldon Park Corner inn and premises; also the North and South Needless Hall farms, consisting of 2,070 acres, including 171 acres of plantation and woods, water corn-mill, and fishing in the river, farm houses, buildings, gardens, &c., rental at the time of the sale £2,119 per annum, free from tithe. This, the most valuable lot of the sale, excited a most spirited competition. Mr. Robins said the commissioners of the hospital had expended £7,000 a few years before in improving the property, and the rental anterior was £2,114 a year. The first bidding was 40,000 guineas, and it was eventually sold for 56,900 guineas, to Isaac Cookson, esq., alderman of Newcastle. The other lots were of minor import, and were not sold.

April 21.—The works of those collieries where the men had made a *stick*, being at a stand, the owners had in many instances engaged other hands, and their late servants illegally retaining possession of their dwellings, there remained but one of two alternatives—either to submit to their late servants, or to put the newly engaged men into possession of the houses, &c., which are kept expressly for the occupancy of their workmen. On the above day

(Saturday), the work of legal, but forcible ejection first commenced at Hetton colliery, in the county of Durham. Proper steps had been taken to prevent as much as possible any disturbance; special constables were appointed, a strong force of London police was in readiness, assisted by a detachment of the Queen's Bays, and those who refused to join the combined workmen were furnished with arms for their protection. While families and furniture were handed to the door, in the presence of the authorities, no resistance was offered, but the evening gave "dreadful note of preparation." Many of the union men assembled in a group; several were armed, occasional shots were fired, and, as if to intimidate the new hands, to prevent others from being induced to join, and overawe the masters, a terrible vengeance was taken upon one of the bound men named John Errington, who was found the next morning, barbarously murdered. On the Monday morning the coroner, T. C. Maynard, esq., arrived, and a jury having been summoned, immediately proceeded with the inquest, when, after a long and tedious investigation, which lasted about ten days, the jury returned a verdict of "*wilful murder*" against George Strong and John Turnbull, as principals, and against John Moore, and Luke Hutton, as accessaries before the fact. These persons were committed under an escort of cavalry (it being apprehended that a rescue would be attempted by their comrades; by whom they were loudly cheered), to Durham gaol to take their trials at the ensuing assizes. Errington was one of the few pitmen at Hetton colliery who had consented to be rebound, and had in consequence become obnoxious to the union men, of which body he had been a strenuous advocate, but had seceded from their councils. This sanguinary deed had been perpetrated by firing two marbles into his body, and such was the savage joy of these demoniacs, that when the funeral of the murdered man was passing the doors of the pitmen, it was barbarously assailed with terrible yells and execrations.

1832 (*May 1*).—In consequence of the pitmen not agreeing with the coal-owners, and at the same time persisting to occupy the houses belonging to the latter, the work of ejection was still proceeding at several of the collieries. On the above day (Tuesday), a sanguinary attack was made upon the advanced party of forty-five lead miners (whom the owners had engaged), while on their way to Tyne Main and Friars' Goose collieries, situated on the south side of the river Tyne, about two miles east of Newcastle. So violent was the assault, and so deadly the means resorted to, that two of the poor fellows were nearly killed, and the remainder were pelted with stones, and otherwise maltreated while at Gateshead. Measures were then taken to preserve the peace; special constables were sworn in on the Wednesday, and on the day following, the work of ejection was commenced at Friars' Goose, the pitmen having kept possession of their houses a fortnight longer than the stipulated time. Scarcely, however, had the proceedings begun, when several hundreds of pitmen, &c., commenced a furious assault with stones and other missiles, and the

ejecting party were obliged to seek safety in flight. In the afternoon, on the information of the outrage reaching Archibald Reed, esq., mayor of Newcastle, an additional number of constables were sworn, who, at eight o'clock on Friday morning, provided with fire-arms and cutlasses, proceeded under the direction of Mr. Thomas Forsyth, the town-marshal, but without the aid of the military, to finish the work of ejection. On reaching Friars' Goose, a great number of pitmen were assembled, in whose presence, Mr. Forsyth delivered to his men two rounds of cartridge, containing swan shot, with strict orders not to fire till commanded. He then advanced, and the pitmen gave three cheers in defiance. Mr. Forsyth exhorted the pitmen to commit no breach of the peace, but they lent a deaf ear to his advice, and were reinforced every moment with fresh arrivals. The police in the mean time proceeded in the execution of their duty, and having entered the house of a pitman named Thomas Carr, his wife obstinately refused to go out, and was carried to the door by two men on a chair. She seized the hat of a policeman, flourished it over her head, and cheered on the mob; Carr then came forward, and begged that his furniture might be carted away to Gateshead. This request was complied with, and Mr. John Lough, sergeant at mace, with a small party of assistants, were deputed to guard the two carts. They were speedily met by upwards of 100 pitmen from the Felling, who attacked the guard, and wounded three of the men. Soon after, another body of the people attacked the premises appointed as a guard-house, overpowered the sentry, and carried off the guns. The noise and shouting brought Mr. Forsyth to the spot; he drew his cutlass and endeavoured to make his way through the immense masses of men that interposed between himself and the police. He was twice knocked down, and at length with great difficulty reached his companions, who were most unhappily stationed in a narrow lane, which was overlooked by a hill on each side, on which the pitmen stood, and threw brick bats, stones, &c., at them. The constables thus pressed, and considering their lives in danger, fired amongst the crowd, then making a rush, got out of their unfortunate position, and gained a rising ground to the east, near to Mr. Easton the viewer's house. Some of the pitmen fired at them as they retreated. Five or six of the pitmen were wounded, one of them severely. Mr. Forsyth was wounded in the head and leg rather severely with stones; one of the special constables was also severely cut about the head. The police, from the place of their retreat, sent off two men express to Newcastle, for the military, the pitmen suspecting their object, obstructed their passage as much as possible. About twelve o'clock, one of these messengers galloped through Newcastle, on his way to the barracks without a hat, and exhibiting a cut in his face, and had one of his ribs broken from the injuries he had received. The soldiers proceeded without delay to Friars' Goose, attended by the mayor of Newcastle, and the Rev. Mr. Collinson, rector of Gateshead. No further disturbances had taken place, and by the time of their arrival, the men had in a

great measure dispersed. The police proceeded to search all the houses in the neighbourhood, and apprehended upwards of forty persons on a charge of being concerned in these outrages. These, with others, who were apprehended on the Saturday, were lodged in the gaol of Newcastle, and on the Monday, upwards of twenty, including three women, were committed for trial at the next Durham assizes, and were sent off to the county gaol under an escort of cavalry. The remainder were either bound over to keep the peace, or discharged.

1832 (*May 10*).—Died, at his house in Northumberland-street, Newcastle, deeply regretted, Christopher Cookson, esq., in the 52nd year of his age, barrister at law, recorder of Newcastle upon Tyne, and of Berwick upon Tweed. *See September 29th, 1829, page 262.* Mr. Cookson was succeeded in the recordership of Berwick, by Robert Ingham, esq. of Westoe, near South Shields, barrister at law, on the 21st of May; and at a meeting of the Common Council of Newcastle, on the 23d of the same month, James Losh, esq., of Jesmond, near Newcastle, barrister at law, was elected recorder of that town.

May 11.—As soon as the resignation of Earl Grey became known in Newcastle, on this day (Friday), a requisition to the mayor was signed by upwards of 200 individuals in a few hours, requesting him to call a public meeting of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, “to take into consideration and adopt such measures as may be deemed expedient in the present eventful state of public affairs.” The requisition was presented to the mayor the same day, and his worship was pleased to appoint the meeting to be held in the Spital on Tuesday (May 15th), at one o’clock. Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, numerous bodies of persons began to arrive at an early hour from the country, and from some of the neighbouring collieries, many of them accompanied by bands of music, banners, &c., and after parading through some of the principal streets, repaired to the place of meeting. At one o’clock the requisitionists proceeded in a body from the Turk’s Head inn, and those who had been selected to conduct the business of the meeting, took their station on the hustings, which had been erected on the raised walk on the south side of the Spital-field. After the company had arrived, the number of banners displayed gave the scene a very animated appearance, and the mottoes of some of them called forth the cheers of the meeting as they came up to the hustings. Amongst others were “The Bill or no Supplies.” “No Wellington.” “Scot and Lot.” “Peace and Unity.” “Live, and let Live.” “No Tory Minister, Grey, Brougham, and the Bill, Russell, Althorp, and No Mistake.” “God save the King”—the word King erased. “Invincible in Union.” “Civil and Religious Liberty.” “All Men have equal Rights.” “Persevere and be Free,” &c. The assemblage of persons on the ground was variously stated, but 40,000 was supposed to be about the number. Mr. Mayor not being present to take the chair, Mr. John Fife stepped forward and said, “Friends and fellow countrymen, this is not a meeting of

the Political Union exclusively, but of every denomination of reformers, who, regardless of minor differences, have united for one common object. I beg to propose that Dr. Headlam do take the chair." This was seconded by Mr. Thomas Doubleday, and carried by acclamation. The meeting was addressed in luminous and energetic speeches by the chairman, James Losh, Thomas Doubleday, J. B. Wright, and John Fife esqrs., and by Messrs. Larkin, Donkin, &c. &c. The chairman having read and put the resolutions to the meeting, they were carried by acclamation. Mr. Charnley having read the address to the king, and the petition to the House of Commons, they were carried unanimously. That gentleman then proposed the thanks of the meeting to Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., and John Hodgson, esq., the members for Newcastle; to T. W. Beaumont, esq., and Viscount Howick, the members for Northumberland; and to William Russell, esq., and Sir Hedworth Williamson, bart., the members for the county of Durham, for their support of the reform bill in parliament (cheers); also the warmest thanks of the meeting to Lord Ebrington, and the two hundred and eighty-eight, who voted for the constitutional resolution which they carried to the throne. This motion was carried amid much cheering. Mr. Losh said he had another motion to propose. It was not written upon paper, but it was more indelible, for it was written upon their hearts—it was the cordial thanks of the meeting to Earl Grey; Mr. Charnley seconded the motion, and it was carried enthusiastically. Mr. Losh then moved the thanks of the meeting to the chairman, which was seconded by Mr. Fenwick, and carried amid loud acclamations. The chairman having thanked the meeting most sincerely, he concluded by urging the meeting to sign the petition, &c., before they left the ground, and retired amidst the cheers of the assembly. Numerous calls were then made for Mr. Attwood, who was observed upon the hustings; after some hesitation, that gentleman came forward and stated, that the reason of his not having taken any part in the previous proceedings of the day, was his absence when the requisition to the mayor was signed, and consequently, no part having been assigned to him in the arrangements made at the preliminary meeting. On private accounts he did not regret this, for he had been labouring under indisposition, which peculiarly unfitted him for addressing so large an assembly as that which he beheld before him. In obedience, however, to the call with which they had honoured him, he would endeavour to say a few words on the subject on which they had been called together. He then addressed the meeting at some length, wherein he stated his regret for the fate of the reform bill, and the unfortunate position of the public cause. After urging the necessity of a close political union amongst themselves, and keeping their eyes steadily on the law and the constitution, whereby they would set all the machinations of their enemies at defiance, Mr. Attwood adverted to some expressions which had fallen from Mr. Larkin as calculated to do, at least, as much harm as good to the cause. He then concluded by thanking the meeting for their

attention, and advised them to go quietly to their homes, and afford no cause of complaint from their enemies.

1832 (*May* 12).—The first number of a newspaper entitled “The Newcastle Journal,” was printed and published in Newcastle, “by Hernaman and Perring, the proprietors, at No. 69, Pilgrim-street.” This paper is dated on the Saturday, and is not published until that day. There was a newspaper under the same title published in Newcastle nearly a century ago. *See April 7th, 1739, vol. i. page 156.*

May 16.—In pursuance of a very numerous and respectable requisition to Thomas Bowes, esq., the bailiff of Darlington, an unusually large meeting of the inhabitants of that town was held, to take into consideration the proper measures to be adopted by the people, when a petition to the House of Commons, praying them to address the king to recall Earl Grey to the nation, and also to withhold all supplies to government of the public money, until such a reform as would satisfy the country be granted, was unanimously agreed to. A variety of resolutions were passed. The speakers were Thomas Bowes, esq., Warren Maude, esq., Messrs. Sherwood, Mewburn, John Pease, Joseph Pease, sen., Nesham, Robinson, Coates, Hogarth, Miller, Lightfoot, Hartley, &c. The assemblage of people was so large that it was necessary to hold the meeting in the open air in front of the town-hall.

Same day, about eleven o'clock at night, an alarming fire broke out in the premises occupied by Mr. George Heslop, currier, Mill-street, Sunderland. By the prompt assistance of the engines, the flames were got under in about three hours, after having destroyed the first and second floors, and the principal part of the roof.

The early part of this month, the skeleton of a female, without a head, was discovered by a mason digging a well in Moor-gate-street, Sunderland.

May 17.—A meeting of the friends of reform in Durham and the neighbourhood, was held at Thwaites' Long-room, which was very numerous as well as respectably attended, most of the gentlemen of consideration in the county being present. Amongst others were observed, Sir William Chaytor, of Witton Castle, bart., Mr. Baker, of Elemore, Mr. Rippon, of Stanhope Castle, Mr. R. J. Lambton, of Murton House, Mr. Shafto, of Whitworth, Mr. Meynell, of Yarm, Mr. Mason, of Chilton, Mr. Mills, of Newton Hall, Mr. W. Williamson, of Whitburn, Colonel Mills, of Willington, Mr. Wright, of Sands, Mr. Salvin, of Croxdale, Dr. Fenwick, Mr. Harland, sen., Mr. Harland, jun., Mr. Fawcett, Mr. Hopper, Colonel Austin, Mr. R. H. Allan, Rev. T. R. Shipperdson, of Durham, &c. &c.; and apologies were made for the absence of Mr. Williamson, the chairman of the county, Mr. Shipperdson, Sir R. J. Eden, bart., Mr. Wilkinson of Harperley Park, and Mr. Allan, of Blackwell. The meeting was called, when it seemed undoubted that the duke of Wellington would assume the reins of power; and its object was to take the necessary steps for organizing the county, preparatory to the expected dissolution of parliament. Dr. Fenwick

was voted to the chair, and opened the business of the day in an eloquent speech. He was followed by Mr. Harland, sen., who, in an energetic address proposed the resolutions. He said that the power which was behind the throne must be extinguished by the people, and that if things had gone on in the manner that appeared likely a few days ago, he would have proposed the withholding of the supplies and the appointment of parliamentary commissioners for the right application of the public money. These declarations were much cheered; and the resolutions were carried by acclamation. Sir William Chaytor, of Witton Castle, bart., Cuthbert Rippon of Stanhope Castle, esq., William Thomas Salvin, of Croxdale, esq., and Robert Henry Allan, of Durham, esq., being appointed a committee to carry the objects of the meeting into effect. After thanks had been voted to the chairman, and three hearty cheers given for Earl Grey, "that good great man," the assemblage broke up.

1832 (*May 17*).—A public meeting of the inhabitants of the parish of Gateshead was held, "to take into consideration the present state of the question of reform, and the measures to be adopted in consequence of the resignation of his majesty's ministers." The requisition was signed by ninety-six of the principal inhabitants, and the meeting was appointed by the Rev. John Collinson, the rector. Commodious hustings were erected at the upper end of Oakwellgate-street, for the accommodation of the speakers and their friends, and by one o'clock, the hour of meeting, an immense concourse of people had assembled. Joseph Willis, esq., was called to the chair, and opened the business of the meeting, which was addressed by Mr. J. B. Johnson, Mr. W. H. Brockett, Mr. Joseph Watson, and others, after which a number of resolutions were proposed and passed, and the petition and address were read and adopted unanimously, after thanks had been voted to Earl Grey and his colleagues, to Lord Ebrington and the members who voted with him in the House of Commons, and particularly to Sir Hedworth Williamson, bart., and Mr. Russell, the members for the county of Durham, to the rector for his readiness in convening the meeting, and to the chairman, the meeting broke up.

Similar meetings took place at Alnwick, at North Shields, and at various other places in Northumberland and Durham.

May 23.—A singular anonymous letter of this date was received by the Tyne Iron Company. The following is a copy:—"Fourteen years ago, I was a workman in your Lemington works, and was in the habit of pilfering little trifling things, only a pennyworth at a time. I have got converted to God, through the Wesleyan ministry, and they teach that restitution is necessary to salvation. God has pardoned me, and I hope you will do the same. My conscience tells me I must have taken at different times to the amount of 40s.; and, I am told, money at interest doubles itself in fourteen years, I enclose you £5, hoping that you will never oppose the Wesleyan Methodists. *May 23d, 1832.*" The company presented the £5. to the Gateshead Dispensary. For a similar letter, *see addenda, August 9, 1828.*

1832 (*May 25*).—The foundation stone of a new church at Slaley, in Northumberland, was laid by the Rev. Christopher Bird, vicar of Chollerton, in the presence of the clergy of the neighbourhood, the principal inhabitants, and a large concourse of people. The old church had become little better than a mass of ruins, and totally unfit for the celebration of divine service. By the persevering exertions of the Rev. Henry Armstrong, the curate, and other members of a committee selected for that purpose, sufficient funds were raised to rebuild and enlarge the structure, without having recourse to a parish rate. Previous to the interesting ceremony, the Rev. C. Bird delivered an appropriate address; the stone was then laid with the usual ceremonies, and three hearty cheers were given by the persons assembled. The contractors and labourers were refreshed at the expense of the managers. The clergymen and committee partook of the hospitality of the Rev. H. Armstrong. The proceedings of the day excited the strongest interest.

May 26.—A general meeting of the pitmen of the Tyne and Wear, was held on Boldon Fell. The meeting was addressed by Mr. T. Hepburn and several others, who moved and seconded a series of resolutions, but their observations contained nothing that betokened a speedy arrangement of the differences with the coal-owners.

Same day, Messrs. W. Bewick and D. Dunbar's exhibition of paintings and sculpture by British and Foreign artists, was first opened at the east end of the Royal Arcade, in Pilgrim Street, Newcastle. The exhibition to continue open two months, from nine o'clock on the morning till dusk in the evening of each day, Sundays excepted. Admission one shilling—season tickets, three shillings. Quarto catalogues, with a large wood cut of the principal picture, drawn and engraved by Mr. William Harvey, a native of Newcastle, were charged one shilling each. *See July 27th, 1831, page 305.*

May 28.—A man of colour, named Edwards, performed a somewhat novel and arduous feat on the north turnpike, near Newcastle. Holding the nath of a carriage wheel in his left hand, he rolled it along the turnpike with the utmost ease, and in this manner though the ground was very slippery, ran sixteen miles in two hours. A great number of people collected to witness the performance.

May 30.—A man named Robson, a workman at Heaton lime kiln, near Newcastle, incautiously ventured on the top of the kiln, which gave way, and he sunk down into the burning lime. Several men immediately proceeded to the spot, and lost no time in rendering every assistance, but the unfortunate man was dead before they could get him out. He had been married only three days.

The same day a pit which had been sunk at Wooler, in Northumberland, for the purpose of obtaining water, fell in whilst Mr. S. Morton was employed in making some alterations at the bottom of it. The pit was about thirty-six feet deep, and was built round entirely with bricks without lime. All the bricks, to within five or

six feet of the bottom, gave way, and a great quantity of earth having fallen in along with them, the pit was in an instant filled up to within five or six feet of the surface. As soon as the alarm was given, a number of people immediately crowded to the spot, but on seeing the pit so completely choked up, every person despaired of rendering the unfortunate man any assistance. A number of men, however, commenced to clear out the pit; and in order to accomplish the work as expeditiously as possible, an express was sent to Doddington colliery to procure the assistance of some pitmen, they being well acquainted with work of that description. The men in a very short time arrived, and used their utmost exertions in getting the earth and bricks taken out of the pit. When they had proceeded about fifteen feet below the surface, they were astonished on hearing Morton calling from the bottom. They of course replied to him, and thus stimulated, they continued, with increased exertions, till they at length got him safely drawn to the top. Mr. Morton was so situated all the while at the bottom, that he could neither move leg nor arm, he was so firmly enclosed with earth and bricks, that, after the workmen had got his head and arms cleared, it required a considerable time longer to disengage the rest of his body. As there were upwards of thirty cart-loads of bricks, besides a great quantity of earth taken out of the pit, the miserable condition in which he was placed beneath the ground for the space of nine or ten hours, may easily be conceived.

1832 (*May 30*).—The Durham church estate bill, “for separating the Rectory of Easington, in the county of Durham, from the Archdeaconry of Durham, and annexing in lieu thereof, a prebend or canonry in the cathedral church of Durham,” was read a third time in the House of Lords and passed.

May 31.—The Right Worshipful Archibald Reed, esq., mayor of Newcastle, accompanied by the river jury, and a party of gentlemen, proceeded, according to annual custom, to survey the boundaries of the river Tyne, under the jurisdiction of that corporation. About half-past seven o'clock on the morning, the party left the mansion-house for Shields, from whence they returned about half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, amid the firing of cannon and the ringing of bells, &c. At that time the sight was very pleasing from the number of light and elegantly painted boats, with suitable flags, which preceded the barges to the mansion-house. The stewards of the incorporated companies, in compliment to the chief magistrate, had the Swan steam-boat tastefully decorated for the occasion. On the paddle cases were painted, the words “A. REED, ESQR'S., SIXTH MAYORALTY.” After partaking of refreshments at the mansion-house, the company departed for Hedwin Streams, whither the fineness of the day attracted a numerous company to enjoy the sports of the afternoon. There were races on the King's Meadows, in one of which a horse named Peacock missed his step and fell down, and, a mare named Lady Mary, which was following close, fell over him, and broke one of her legs.

May.—There was at this time living at Ferryhill, in the county

of Durham, a woman named Catherine Moralee, of the astonishing age of $112\frac{1}{2}$ years. She was born at Leyburn, in Yorkshire, on the 22d of November, 1719. After her marriage, she resided several years in Newcastle; and was the mother of ten children, all of whom are dead; they afterwards removed to the village of Middleton, near Merrington, in the county of Durham, and afterwards about thirty years ago, (being then a widow), she removed to Ferryhill. A gentleman who saw her at this time, obtained from herself the above particulars. Her sight and hearing were a little impaired, but her memory was remarkably retentive. *See August, 1827, page 209.*

1832 (*June 1*).—The royal assent was given by commission to the Hartlepool docks and railway bill, and the Hartlepool pier bill. This place is of great antiquity. *See vol. i. pp. 20, 22, and 62.*

Same day, in the House of Commons, the Newcastle and Carlisle railway bill, was read a third time and passed; and the Durham church estate bill was read a second time and committed.

June 2.—The first market for swine (which before had been held in the High-bridge, Newcastle) was held in and upon a piece of ground belonging to the corporation of that town, westward of the Forth, and adjoining the live cattle market, on the above day (Saturday), and to be continued on that day in every week.

June 5.—The foundation stone was laid of a new stone bridge to be erected over the river Tees, at Blackwell-ford, near Darlington, for a new line of road to be made from the latter place to Barton-lane-end, to commence with the road to Richmond. The bridge was from the design of Mr. Green, architect, of Newcastle, under whose direction the works were conducted. It will consist of three elliptical arches; the centre one to be 78 feet span, and the side ones 68 feet each.

June 7.—The reform bill received the royal assent. Notices of the rejoicings which took place in the district in consequence of the event, will be found under their respective dates.

June 9.—In the evening a meeting was held in the Town-hall of Darlington, Thomas Bowes, esq., bailiff of Darlington, in the chair, when it was unanimously resolved, by the persons present, to express their satisfaction on the occasion of the passing of the reform bill, by giving a public dinner to the operatives of the town. For carrying this purpose into effect, a committee was nominated, to whom the necessary arrangements were entrusted. The following Tuesday being a holiday, was fixed upon as a suitable day, the committee thinking it better not to take the people from their work. The members of the committee, and other gentlemen, as well as several ladies, purchased tickets for the dinner, which they distributed gratis. Three large oxen were bought, with a suitable proportion of bread, ale, and vegetables, besides a large supply of plum-pudding, which was furnished by the liberality of private individuals and of the principal inn-keepers, the latter of whom undertook to cook the provisions. In order to ensure regularity in the proceedings, every department was allotted to committees of

three or four gentlemen, the benefit of which was evident, from the admirable arrangements that were made. On Monday evening, deputies from all the trades in the town met the committee at the Town-hall, and received from them general directions, the execution of which was committed to Mr. George Elwin, by whose very spirited and skilful exertions all the trades were marshalled under their respective banners. The order in which they were to march was fixed by ballot, and the numbers were ascertained that would join the procession on Tuesday morning. The Darlington and West Auckland bands volunteered their services, and were provided with tickets for the dinner. In the mean time, the gentlemen who had been appointed to prepare tables, obtained from the timber-merchants a large quantity of deals, which were formed into tables, from 20 to 50 yards in length, in the market-place, and these were covered with cloth, furnished by the drapers. The tables were so arranged, that the elegant gas column in the square formed the centre, the intervening spaces being wide enough to admit of the necessary attendants freely passing each other. The ale was placed in the shambles, under the charge of three gentlemen who were to distribute it to the tables according to the number of persons at each. All the preliminaries having been arranged, at 12 o'clock precisely the procession commenced moving in the following order, from the Town-hall, amidst the deafening thunders of thousands of voices:—The National Flag, one hundred gentlemen 4 abreast; Earl Grey's Arms; Lord Brougham's Arms; the Darlington band; an Emblematic Flag; the Lodge of Odd Fellows, in full dress; a banner; the Woolcombers, with a sliver of blue and white wool across their breasts; a banner; the Coach-makers; a banner; the Coopers; a banner; the Worsted-weavers; a banner; the Linen-weavers; a banner; the Bricklayers; a banner; the Flax-dressers; a banner; the Shoemakers; a banner; the Carpenters; a banner; the Tanners, Curriers, Skinners, and Finishers, in their respective dressess and banners; a banner; the Bleachers; a banner; the Carpet-weavers, with a skein of blue, red, and white worsted yarn across their shoulders; a banner; the Sawyers; a banners; the Tailors; a banner; the Smiths; a banner; the Gardeners, with a triumphal arch and crown of evergreens; a banner; the Painters; a banner; the Plumbers; a banner; the Shopmen; a banner; the Railway men. Each company was attended by two of the committee to preserve order, and to carve at dinner. The procession marched round the town-boundaries and through the principal streets, the bands playing, bells ringing, guns firing in all directions, and colours waving from the windows, roofs, and chimneys in the whole town. Not only town's people were assembled, but multitudes from the neighbourhood, taking advantage of the beautiful state of the weather, flocked in to witness the magnificent spectacle. Upwards of 3000 men walked in the ranks, and so far as could be calculated, above 12,000 people were congregated on the occasion, peace and good order were effectually maintained, not more by the judicious arrangements of the committee than by

the good sense of the men themselves. The men of one tan-yard had previously agreed to fine any one of themselves 5s. who should be in a state of intoxication on that day. After perambulating the town, which occupied nearly two hours, the whole body was drawn up round the market-place, The bands which had continued playing incessantly during the march, then ceased, and, with the music, terminated the acclamations of the people; for a minute there was a dead pause, all heads were uncovered, and at a given signal, three simultaneous cheers, uttered from thousands of British bosoms, rose in awful grandeur to the skies. The various companies, under their respective banners and leaders, then filed off in double columns to the tables that had been appointed for them, till all were stationed. This was done before dinner time, that every man might know his own place, without the confusion of seeking for a vacancy. The people were then dismissed for an hour to rest themselves, and to allow all the dinner orders to be forwarded. At three o'clock the trades arrived and took their assigned places at the tables, on which the attendants expeditiously placed the smoking viands, and the long disused custom was again revived for a while, of servant and master exchanging duties with each other, the latter kindly and attentively seeking to promote the comforts of the former. During dinner, the delegates and gentlemen of the committee were engaged either in carving for, or waiting on, the people; and at 4 o'clock they assembled at the Work-house, in a spacious room fitted up for the occasion, and dined together, thus concluding, in festive harmony, a day of rejoicing such as was never before witnessed in the North of England. The workmen of Messrs. Parker, of Haughton-le-Skerne, marched to Darlington and joined in the procession, carrying along with them their banners. They afterwards returned to Haughton, where they were sumptuously regaled with plum-pudding and roast beef. It would be injustice to omit noticing, that the wives, sisters, and daughters of those who had dined in public, were regaled with tea and cakes in the open air, in various parts of the town, by the kind contributions of the ladies of Darlington, whose enthusiasm on this national occasion proved them to be thorough reformers. The following are selected from hundreds of mottoes that were emblazoned on the floating draperies of the trades' banners and other private flags:—The glorious triumph of 1832—May the Sun always shine on real Reformers, Earl Grey for ever—The Voice of the People is the Voice of God—Long live Earl Grey and all Reformers—The Day is ours—May the Sons of St. Crispin ever flourish with Reform—Let us rejoice, Reform is accomplished—The King, the People, and Reform—Reform is won, Victory is ours—Let the merry bells ring, Grey, Brougham, and the Bill—By Perseverance we have conquered—Truth and Justice have decided our Cause—Cleveland we adore—Durham we delight in—Long live Grey, Brougham, and their Colleagues, the Champions of Reform—A Day of Liberty is worth an Eternity of Bondage—Success to the Town and Trade of Darlington—No Corn Laws—No Tithes—The righteous Man

falleth seven times and riseth again—Let the King put away the wicked from before him and his Throne shall be established in Righteousness—England must be free as the Thoughts of Man—United we stand, divided we fall—Grey and Brougham—Victory follows the Brave—The glorious Triumph of Grey and Brougham—England expects every Man to do his Duty. The whole passed over with the greatest order.

1832 (*June 11*).—About 5 o'clock in the afternoon, as Nicholas Fairles, esq., of South Shields, a magistrate for the county of Durham, was riding to Jarrow colliery, he was accosted by two pitmen, under the pretence of asking charity, when one of them took hold of his hand, and the other seized him and dragged him from his horse; one of the men then gave him a violent blow on the head with a brick, when they fell upon him, and after kicking and beating him most unmercifully, left him on the road in an almost lifeless state. The transaction having been observed from a house at a short distance, assistance was immediately sent to him. From the dreadful nature of the wounds which Mr. Fairles received on his skull, he lingered until June the 21st, when he expired. One of the villains was apprehended, but the other escaped. His majesty's government offered a reward of three hundred pounds, and the vestry of St. Hilda, one hundred pounds, for the better apprehending and bringing to justice the persons concerned in this diabolical transaction. A coroner's inquest was held on the body, at Mr. Oyston's inn, South Shields, and after a patient examination of Dr. Winterbottom, Mr. W. K. Eddowes, and Mr. James Eddowes, surgeons, and Dr. Brown, of Sunderland, and of several persons, some of whom witnessed the furious and diabolical assault, and who detailed the appalling circumstances with great minuteness, the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against William Jobling and Ralph Armstrong, (the former of whom was in custody) It having been announced by a mourning placard that the funeral of the deceased would take place on Wednesday the 27th, several gentlemen, holding high official situations in the town and neighbourhood, expressed their wish to take a part in the procession. On the morning, the flag on the church steeple, and those of the several ships in the harbour, were hoisted half-staff high, and most of the shops in the town were closed. At ten o'clock, the mayor of Newcastle (Archibald Reed, esq.), accompanied by Mr. Surtees, the sheriff, and Mr. Alderman Sorsbie, arrived at the town-hall, and soon after, the chairman of the quarter sessions, for Durham; the rev. Mr. Baker, rector of Whitburn; the rev. Mr. Collinson, rector of Gateshead; and the rev. Mr. Hollingsworth, rector of Boldon; Bryan Abbs, and William Loraine, esqrs., magistrates; James Edgcome, esq., collector of the customs at Newcastle, and several other gentlemen of the neighbourhood, together with the churchwardens, vestrymen, and respectable householders, joined the family of the deceased in following his remains to the grave. The pall was borne by the rev. Robt. Green, of Newcastle, lieut. col. Craster, Cuthbert Young, Jeremiah Archer, Christopher Bainbridge,

John Straker, Henry Major, and John Hedley, esqrs. The funeral service was performed in a very impressive manner by the rev. John Carr, and several members of the choral society assisted. The coffin was made out of a tree cut down for the purpose, which had been planted when Mr. Fairles came of age. It bore the following unostentatious inscription, "Nicholas Fairles, died 21 June, 1832, aged 71 years."

1832 (*June 15*).—Between six and seven o'clock on the morning, an awful calamity occurred at Philadelphia, Newbottle colliery, by the explosion of a steam engine boiler on Lord Durham's rail-road, whereby five individuals were killed and thirteen dreadfully bruised, three of whom have since died, the others remain in a very precarious state.—The workmen were in the act of repairing the boiler at the time of the explosion, which, together with large pieces of metal pipes, &c., were thrown to a great distance. The machine house was blown down and rent to the foundation, and stones, bricks, &c., scattered in all directions; the dwelling house adjoining the machine was also blown down upon the family of Robert Sheldon, when four of them, three of his children, and his father, Joseph Sheldon, again 87 years, were killed; his wife had her arm broke while endeavouring to rescue her infant, and a little girl who is much bruised. A little boy and his grandmother were in the house, but escaped unhurt.

June 16.—Another meeting of the pitmen of the Tyne and Wear, took place on Boldon Fell. There was a falling off in number, but various flags and banners were displayed. At eleven o'clock, the delegates who intended to address the meeting, assembled in a cart round which the multitude gathered. At this meeting it was determined that the men unemployed should remain so for ten weeks, and then if no agreement could be come to, a general strike would be a matter for their consideration.

June 19.—The foundation stone of a new Independent Chapel was laid in Dundas-street, Monkwearmouth.

June 20.—A meeting of the friends of reform was held at Durham, when a series of resolutions were moved by William Harland, esq., and seconded by John Fawcett, esq., to support Sir Hedworth Williamson, bart., and Hedworth Lambton, esq., for the northern division of the county of Durham, which were unanimously adopted. Robert Henry Allan, esq., moved a resolution of thanks to Mr. Russell, for his sacrifices in favour of reform, which was carried amidst great applause, and the thanks of the meeting having also been voted to the chairman (Dr. Fenwick), it was dissolved.

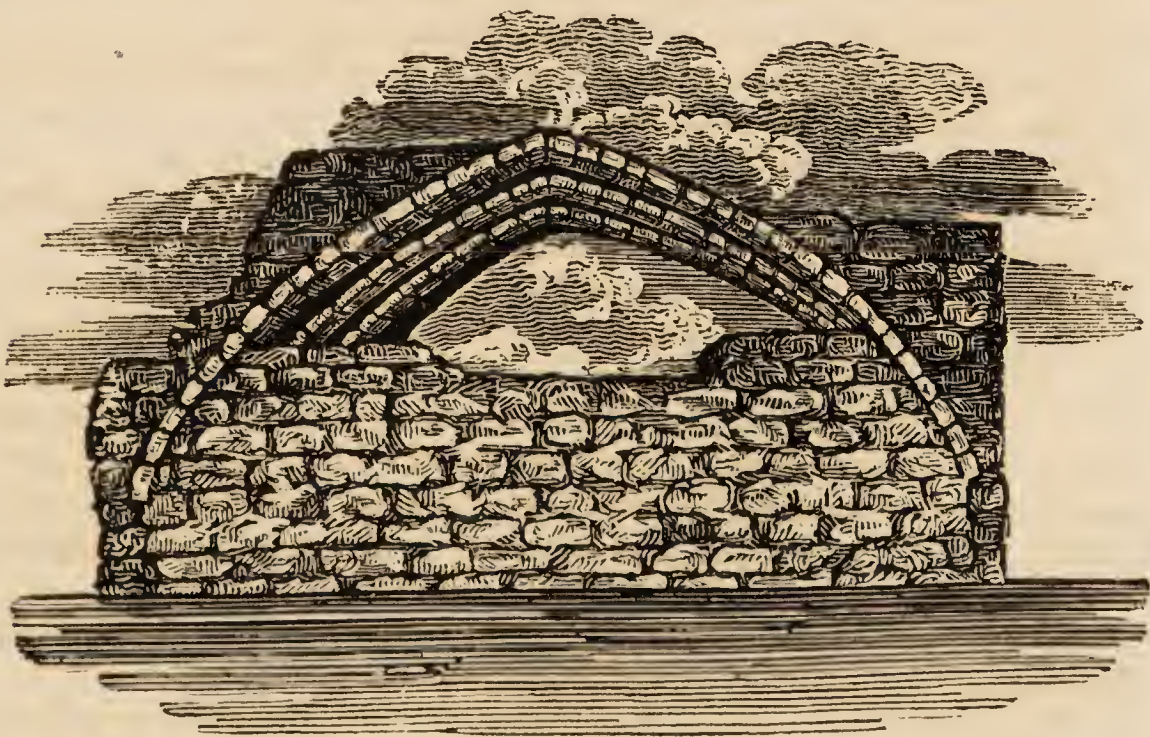
July 2.—In the evening, the opening of the new building of the Alnwick Scientific and Mechanical Institution, was celebrated by a public supper in the Town-hall, John Lambert, esq., in the chair. The members walked in procession from the Star Inn, preceded by the Northumberland band of music and several flags. Mr. Lambert delivered an introductory address on the advantage of science, to the members and other auditors, in the lecture room belonging to the institution. The thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr.

M. Smith, seconded by Thomas Dodds, esq., after which they walked in procession to supper, when between seventy and eighty of the members and their friends sat down. Mr. Lambert had presented to the institution the site for the building. *See pp.* 180 and 302.

1832 (*July 4*).—There was a public dinner at Sedgefield, in the county of Durham, in celebration of the passing of the reform bill, when nearly 100 persons partook of roast beef and plum-pudding. Bands of music paraded the town with banners, and the greatest order prevailed. Fire works were played off in the evening.

July 4.—The royal assent was given by commission to the Durham University bill.

July 7.—The Newcastle Courant newspaper having been sold by Mr. Charles Henry Cook, to “John Blackwell and Co.” their first paper “No 8215,” was dated as above. This journal has been published one hundred and twenty-one years, and has only had during that time the following proprietors, viz:—Mr. John White, afterwards joined in partnership by Mr. Thomas Saint, who on Mr. White’s death in 1769, became sole proprietor. After the death of Mr. Saint in 1788, it passed to Messrs. Hall and Elliott, and by the executors of Mr. Hall, was in the year 1796, sold to Mr. Edward Walker, by whose death in 1831, it became the property of Mr. Cook. Two of the above (Mr. White and Mr. Walker), had the proprietorship for a period of ninety-three years. Besides being the first newspaper published north of the Trent, it has another peculiar feature, being the first paper in the kingdom which was printed on a Stanhope press, and that press on improved principles, was made in Newcastle. It was afterwards printed with a machine. *See vol. i. pp.* 132, 267 ; *vol. ii. pp.* 303, 340.



This cut shews a portion of the walls of Hartlepool.

ADDENDA,

CONTAINING many curious articles which I obtained too late for insertion in the chronological order of the work, together with additions to, and corrections of, paragraphs previously printed. Those within commas, and having the initials I. C., at the end, are copied from the MS., notes of the late Isaac Cookson, esq., (who died on the 13th of December, 1831, in his 87th year), prefixed to that gentleman's copy of the first edition of the Local Records, in one volume, published in 1824, and which was kindly handed to me by his son, the late Christopher Cookson, esq.

1298 (*Dec*, 12).—Edward King of England, then at Durham, forgave to the Prior and Convent of Durham, the sum of £1,012. 9s. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. their arrears of subsidies.

1346.—There is a letter in the British Museum (Faustina A. 6. 47.) from the Prior of Durham to the Bishop, (then absent), giving an account of the battle of Neville's Cross. The battle began at three o' clock P.M. *See vol i. page 45.*

1463 (*Jan*. 24).—The prior of Durham, granted his Licence to John Etrick, and Thomas Jonson, of Gretham, to go to the Holy Land upon a pilgrimage against the Turks, having previously before the shrine of St. Cuthbert, branded them upon the right side of their naked breasts with a hot iron shaped like a cross.

In the same year, a similar licence was granted to Thomas Man, of Bishop Auckland.

1474 (*July* 11).—John Raynoldson, of Cocken, and John Fery, of the same place did penance in Durham Cathedral, for violating the Liberties of St. Cuthbert. Each walked bare headed covered with a linen sheet, and carrying in his hand a lighted candle of the weight of half a pound. John Robynson, of the same place, performed a similar penance in Finchale Abbey. In the same year Lionel Claxton, gentleman, did penance in the chapel of Bearpark, for a like reason.

1493.—The prior of Durham, granted his licence to John Man, a Yorkshireman, to lead the life of a Hermit.

1499 (*April* 14).—A similar licence to John Ellys, of the parish of Brancepath, John Blenkinsop, parish of Chester-le-Street, and Wm. Brown, parish of Morpeth.

1508 (*March* 6).—The Prior of Durham, gave letters testimonial

to Robert Lomley, a hermit, and Cuthbert Billingham, gent., when setting out to visit the Holy Land.

1597 (*Sept.* 12).—John Bedforth, pettycanon of Durham Cathedral, made his will, and the day after added to it the following nuncupative codicil when walking in one of the streets. “He willed and bequeathed to the parish Church of St. Mary, in the South Baily, his best surplice, having sleeves, and being worth as he said 20s., before Robert Thompson, and Mr. Cuthbert Nicholl, and divers others. Mrs. Prentesse, Bartie Young, *alias* Drunken Bartie, and others heard when he thus spoke and willed.”

1631 (*August*).—Two men named John Walker and Mark Sharp, were tried at Durham assizes before judge Davenport, for the murder of Anne Walker, convicted, and afterwards executed. This Walker was a yeoman of good estate, and a widower, who lived at Lumley, near unto Chester-le-Street, and the deceased was a young woman who was his kinswoman, and kept his house, she was supposed to be with child, but would not disclose by whom. She was removed to her aunts in the same town, called Dame Caire, and after she had been there some time, Sharp, a collier from Lancashire, being a sworn brother of the said Walker’s, came to Lumley one night, and they two that night called her forth from her aunt’s house and she was not heard of after for some time. Now comes the marvellous part of the story. About fourteen days after the murder, there appeared to one Graham or Graime, a fuller, at his mill, six miles from Lumley, the likeness of a woman with five wounds in her head, who declared herself to be the spirit of Anne Walker, and mentioned, that Walker and Sharp had murdered her in a place which she named. In consequence of the repeated visits, injunctions, and threats of this apparition, Graime related the whole matter to a justice of the peace, search was made, and the body found in a coal pit with five wounds in the head, together with a pick and bloody shoes and stockings belonging to Sharp. The prisoners were apprehended, but found bail to appear at the next assizes; they then came to their trial and were both found guilty and executed as above stated.

1637 (*Aug.* 29).—At 5 o’clock in the afternoon the Tower of the Church of St. Mary-le-Bow in Durham, beneath the arch or bow of which the public way passed, and from which circumstance it took its name, fell to the ground. The Church was not repaired till long after the Restoration. *See vol. i. page 89.*

1644 (*Jan.* 3).—Francis Walker, of Barnardcastle, gent., was tried at the sessions at Durham, for saying “the parliament are rogues, rebels and traitors—God confound them and the devil confound them; and he wished the parliament house were blown up with gunpowder as it should have been once, and he hoped to see them all hanged one against another within a short time—that the parliament sought to be kings themselves, and that they would have him (the king) to be worse than either you or I, and that he (the king) could not say the horse he rode on was his own,”

1668 (*July*).—At the assizes at Durham, Alice Armstrong,

wife of Christopher Armstrong, of Shotton, labourer, was tried for *bewitching* to death an ox belonging to Barbara Thompson. Sentence not recorded.

1669.—“ It was tried again and with the same verdict—and a third time, the jury from Buckinghamshire, verdict the same and a perpetual injunction granted.” I. C. *See vol. i. page 114.*

1673 (*Oct. 1*).—John Harrison, a cripple, killed Thomas Smailes, a glazier, with his crutch at Seaton Carew. He was hanged at Durham the assizes following. *See vol. i. page 115.*

1685.—A man named John Ornsby stood an hour in the pillory at Durham for perjury.

1693 (*Aug. 10*).—Gilbert Spearman, of Durham, gent., was tried at the assizes there, for drinking the following toast;—“ Here is King James his prosperitie ; here is the confusion of King William.”

1693 (*Aug. 10*).—William Davison, of Fenwick, in North Durham, was tried at the Durham assizes, for saying that “ the commissioners (appointed by act of parliament for the aid of £1,651,702 18s., for the war against France), for this county, were all cheats and he would prove it—for they had cheated both the king and the county—he did not care a f---t for all the commissioners.”

1695.—A subscription to repair the parsonage House of St. Mary's in the South Bailey set on foot by Henry Smith, rector.

1695 (*Jan. 14*).—Durham Sessions Order. “ It is thought fit and so resolved by the Justices in open Court that from henceforth their wages goe and be employed for and towards the procuring a plate or plates to be run for on Durham Moor. And that it be recommended to Mr. Mayor of Durham, Chairman at this Sessions, to communicate the same to the Bishop of Durham. And that the same continue until further resolution of the Majority of Justices of Peace of this County. Signed Geo. Morland, Mayor, Rob. Eden, Will. Bowes, Ly. Vane, Hen. Liddell, Will. Lambton,* Ja. Clavering, Jo. Sidgewick, Rob. Ellison, Rob. Jennison.” The procuring of a plate or plates has been for some considerable time discontinued, and instead thereof the Bishop of Durham, allows Ten pounds at every Sessions, to procure the Justices a Dinner, unless he be in the County, and then he entertains the Justices at the Castle (1762.)

* William Lambton, of Lambton, esq., was returned M. P. for the county of Durham, in the years 1685, 1688, 1688-9, 1689-90, 1695, 1700-1, 1701 and 1710, and was one of the most independent members of the House of Commons. He was designated under the popular title of “ *Old True Blue*,” and the following anecdote in illustration of his rusty independence must not be omitted:—Once on the meeting of a new parliament, the door-keeper seeing him dressed in a plain grey home spun coat, made of the wool of his own sheep, and thick shoes, would not admit him farther than the lobby, where he sat quietly enough until a friend in a finer coat came up, who remonstrated with the door-keeper on his shutting out one of the most honourable and respectable members of the House of Commons. The door-keeper changed his tone, and hoped his honour would give him something as a remembrance. Up started Will, more vexed at the fellow's servility than at his former rudeness, and gave him a hearty box on the ear, saying, “ there's a God's penny for thee ; I think thou'lt ken auld Will Lambton again.”

1709 (*Aug. 2*).—Richard Simpson of Barnardcastle, currier, was tried at the Durham assizes for breaking into the dwelling-house of Michael Pudsey, merchant there, and stealing a silver tankard, two pair of silver cock spurs, a silver chain, two silver seals, 19 yards of silver lace, &c. &c. Pleaded his clergy and burnt in the hand.

1710.—About this year Bensham colliery exploded, by which lamentable catastrophe, between 70 and 80 human beings lost their lives. At this colliery the first attempt was made to work the low main seam of coal in the neighbourhood of Newcastle.

1711 (*Aug. 13*).—Thomas Wilson, John Brady, Andrew Miller, Andrew Langland, and Robert Evans, were tried at the Durham assizes, for having, in the night of the 19th of the preceding December, broken into the house of William Storey, a miller at Hedley, and stolen therefrom ten guineas in gold, £59. 5s. in money, &c. They were found guilty and executed.

1715 (*Aug. 17*).—Henry James, of Ingleton, yeoman, was tried at the Durham assizes, for having, at Ingleton, on the first of August, said:—"The king is neither protestant nor churchman, and I will prove it, and he never did good since he came into England, and I hope in a short time to be quit of him." He was found guilty and sentenced to stand in the pillory at Wolsingham for one hour in open market; to be imprisoned for one year, and to be fined 100 marks.

1726 (*Aug. 3*).—Stephen Browne, Arthur Hewetson, David Steel, Ann Bone, and Jane Browne, were tried at the Durham assizes, for having, on the 13th of June preceding, robbed John Marshall of 32 guineas, on the king's highway in the parish of Jarrow. They were found guilty and executed.

1739 (*December*).—From the middle of this month to May the 11th, 1740, there was no rain at Newcastle, not more than some small showers, about two or three hours together. On the latter day it began to rain about eight o'clock at night, and continued till the 12th at the same hour at night.

1741.—About this year the first chain bridge, constructed in this country, is believed to have been that over the river Tees, called Winch bridge, forming a communication between the counties of Durham and Yorkshire. This bridge is suspended on iron chains stretched from rock to rock, over a chasm nearly sixty feet deep, for the passage of travellers; it is seventy feet in length, and little more than two feet broad, with a hand-rail on one side, and planked in such a manner, that the traveller experiences all the tremulous motion of the chain, and sees himself suspended over a roaring gulph on an agitated and restless gangway, to which few strangers dare trust themselves. About three miles from this bridge is the sublime cataract, called the High Force, which, darting its waters over a huge rock of black marble, upwards of 80 feet in height, precipitates itself into several caverns excavated in the solid rock by the force and boiling of the waters at the bottom of the fall. The clouds of spray arising from the descending waters,

assume when enlivened by the beams of the sun, all the variegated colours of the rainbow, and the noise of the fall may be heard many miles round the country. The Cauldron Snout, another cataract, about four miles above the last mentioned fall, is also well worth visiting.

1742 (*Jan. 28*).—"This happened at night, the fire from South Shields and higher up the river, wore so much the appearance of the rising sun, that it took its name from that. The roof of Cookson's plate glass (house) at South Shields, was set fire to the same moment." I. C. *See vol. i. page 166.*

1743 (*September*).—There was at this time in Newcastle one of the largest men that had ever been seen in England. He was eight feet two inches in height and weighed 35 stones. He was shewn to gentlemen at one shilling each, to other persons at sixpence each.

1744 (*Feb 24*).—A proclamation to put the laws in execution against papists and non-jurors was given out at St. James's, London, which proclamation was put into execution at Newcastle, at the request of the mayor, recorder, &c. "I was desired," says Mr. Benjamin Bradley, farrier, &c., of Newcastle, in his memorandum book, "to value the non-jurors and papists horses, for both the town people and a part of the country, which were brought into the Moothall in the Castlegarth." "N. B.—I condemned none."

1744 (*July 27*).—The keelmen of the river Tyne, refused to work, and would let no keel pass down the river in consequence of the fitters loading the keels with ten chaldrons of coals, instead of eight, which was the statute measure. They were in such a state of insubordination, that the riot act was read by order of Ralph Sowerby, esq., mayor, of Newcastle, and four companies of soldiers were sent to Sandgate, to keep the peace. During this affray, Walter Blackett, esq., M. P., and alderman of Newcastle, (afterwards Sir Walter Blackett, bart.), received a cut on the head by a keelman. Matters in dispute were at length adjusted, and the keelmen resumed their labours.

1745 (*Sept. 16*).—A list of the catholics and nonjurors, in Pilgrim-street ward, Newcastle:—John Wilthew, catholic; Neell Dixon, disaffected; Peter Brayson, a stranger; George Hare, catholic; Mr. Jackson, not own his religion; Ellwick Hall, catholic; Matt. Smith, catholic; Jacob Johnson, nonjuror; Jon. Lyle, catholic; Donkin Stewart, nonjuror; Jon. Balliff, nonjuror.

1746.—Joseph Swallow, of Durham, jeweller, was tried at the assizes there, for drinking King James's health.

1748 (*Feb. 6*).—Peace with Spain was proclaimed at Newcastle with the usual formalities.

1748 or 9.—Dr. Cowper, Dean of Durham, pulled down an old part of the Deanery at Durham, next the garden facing the south, and rebuilt the same in a handsome manner. He also altered and improved some of the apartments behind the great room. In the beginning of the year 1752, he put two handsome gothic windows into the old octangular kitchen on the south side facing the college.

1750 (*Sept. 2*).—A new organ was opened in St. John's church in Newcastle, and a charity sermon was preached by Dr. Thomas Sharp, archdeacon of Northumberland.

November 5. The organ of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, after having had a swell and other additions, was opened. *See 1676, vol. i., page 116.*

1752.—At the latter end of this year, Bishop Butler, began to make great alterations in and about the castle at Durham. He pulled down the old tapestry hangings in the dining room behind the gallery, and stuccoed the walls with ornaments below the cornice, and added some large foliages on the joining of the compartments of the roof. He enlarged and made new the windows looking northwards on to the grass walk out of that dining room, in the Gothic taste, and made a handsome Gothic chimney-piece of stone. He took down a considerable part of the outside wall of the castle facing the north, which overhung the perpendicular line several inches, and in the place of the wall so thinned, he built it up with square stones well crampt with iron. This was on the right hand going out of the castle at the north door. He also new floored the great west dining room above stairs, and new stuccoed the senior judges' apartments, and also new floored the junior judges' apartments, and made new fire places in them. He also pulled down the eastern wall of the bowling green at Auckland, and made a new wall at a less expense than it cost to pull the old one down, which was very hard and thick. He made great improvements in Auckland park by levelling and planting, and destroying all the rabbits in it, and had designed to add about 130 acres of land as an addition to that park, and had actually begun to pale a part of the new inclosure. These improvements were carried on by his successor Dr. Rich. Trevor, who pulled down the south wall in the garden at Auckland, in 1754, and finished the outside wall of the castle at Durham on the left hand going out of the castle on to the terrace walk; and in 1756, to the right hand of the north door placed in the wall the coat of arms of the bishoprick, impaled with those of Butler, three cups upon a bend cotized. He expended in about the space of four years at Auckland, in and about the castle there and park, £8,000., including the purchase of a house on the south side of the street (now the gate way), near the entrance to the castle.

1752.—In the mayoralty of Mr. Joseph Gray, watchmaker, the roof of the council chamber of the toll booth, in Durham, was raised nearly three feet, and ornamented in stucco, the wainscot painted and a new sashed window put in, with a new fire place; and the pictures of King William the third and Bishop Crewe, were cleaned, all at the cost of George Bowes, esq., of Gibside, M. P., for the county, and alderman. Sum expended £72. 9s.

1753 (*June 25*).—"As an inducement to grant him the freedom of the town of which he was most anxious, he had bound himself (to serve for his freedom), to a blacksmith, which was too much of a farce to be allowed." I. C. *See vol. i. page 206.*

1753 (*July 31*).—Died, at his seat at Blackwell-Grange, near Darlington, George Allan, esq., a gentleman universally respected. On the 5th of August following, his remains were deposited in the family vault in Darlington church; the pall being supported by the duke of Cleveland, Lord Darlington, the hon. Thomas Vane, Capt. Milbanke, Mr. Carr, Mr. Bendlowes, Mr. Bland, and Mr. Whitley.

1754 (*Sept. 25*).—The great bell of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, was sent to London, to be recast. The old bell was taken in exchange at 10*d.* per pound, which amounted to £153. The new bell of 36 cwt. was charged 1*s.* 1*d.* per pound, amounting to £218. 8*s.* making the difference in exchange £65. 8*s.* The new bell was rung for the first time on the 1st of January, 1755. *See April 11th, 1754, and April the 10th, 1755, vol. i. pp. 208 and 210.*

1756 (*Jan. 30*).—A labouring man in ditching and scouring a hedge belonging to Mr. George Smith, of Burnhall, found upon Elvet moor, 170 pieces of silver coin included in a pot or small urn, of Edward III. of England, and Robert II. and David, kings of Scotland. He carried them to a silversmith in Durham, where they were claimed and had by the dean and chapter as treasure trove, found within their manor of Elvet. Upon a division of this money, the dean had ten pieces allotted to him, and each of the prebendaries five, and others of the pieces were deposited in the library, and such of them whose inscriptions and figures were effaced, were sold. The value of the whole was between four and five pounds. It is very probable that this money had been deposited in this place at or about the time of the battle of Neville's cross, which was fought not far from it in 1346. The urn and a few of the coins are still preserved in the library. *See vol. i. p. 213.*

1761.—Peter Patterson, it appears, was not a *Hexham rioter*. He was a tenant in Ogle barony, and was compelled by the rioters to join them as they were on their road from Hexham to Morpeth. He was unwillingly pressed into the service. At his execution the rope broke, and he exclaimed more than once "*Innocent blood is hard to spill.*" *See vol. i. page 234.*

1762.—Since printing the paragraph at the end of this year, (*see vol. i., page 239*), respecting Rowland Wetherald, a volume has fallen into my hands, entitled "*The Perpetual Calculator, or Time's Universal Standard, &c.*, by R. Wetherald, Philomath, Newcastle upon Tyne, Printed by I. Thompson and Company, 1760," wherein is the following "ADVERTISEMENT. Arithmetic vulgar and decimal, logarithmetical, and algebraical; also merchants' accounts, according to the true Italian method; mensuration of superficies and solids; gauging; geometry; trigonometry; plain and spherical dialling; land surveying; geography; navigation; astronomy; conic sections; the doctrine of fluxions; architecture; fortification; gunnery; optics and perspectives, in all their parts, according to the latest improvements, are carefully taught by the author, at his house in Great Salkeld, near Penrith, Cumberland; Where board-

ing may be had on easy terms." This is evidently the gentleman, who a year or two after the publication of the above very curious work, settled at Sunderland, and was the first who carried on the printing business there.

1763.—Margaret Middleton, alias Coulson, was executed at Durham. She had been employed by a township in Durham, to take a pauper child, called Lucy Elliott alias Curry, to Northallerton, its place of settlement. She received the wages of her journey beforehand, and carried the child only as far as the river Browney, not two miles from Durham, where she drowned it on the 24th June. She was hanged on Monday the 1st of August, and dissected by Mr. Richard Hopper, surgeon. The inquest on the body of the child was held at Farewell-hall, on the day of the murder, before Mr. John Robson, coroner. *See vol. i. page 242.*

1764.—At the assizes at Durham, James Oliphant, of Gateshead, apothecary, Mary Oliphant his wife, and Mary Shittleton, their servant, were tried for the wilful murder of Dinah Armstrong, by strangling her in their cellar with a rope, and throwing her out of the cellar window into the river Tyne. Not guilty. The "Case of Mr. James Oliphant, surgeon, of Gateshead, respecting a prosecution which he, his wife, and servant, underwent in 1764, for the supposed murder of their maid servant," was published in Newcastle in the year 1768.

1766 (*Aug. 2*).—"Jean Grey had been detected uttering a forged Newcastle bank note, value five pounds. Upon her examination she accused one Jameson, an engraver, with whom she cohabited, as the person she got it from, and that she had seen him engrave and fill up notes, of which she made oath of the truth, and signed her examination before a magistrate. Jameson escaped, but was taken at Glasgow, and tried the ensuing assize. Grey could not think of hanging her lover. Well knowing the punishments that awaited her, she boldly denied what she had made oath of, upon which the judge ordered an indictment to be drawn for perjury, with intent to take away the life of a man who had been tried and found innocent. She was tried in an hour, found guilty, sentenced to be pilloried and transported seven years. She lived in the High-bridge, and was famous for making excellent mutton pies, to which place she returned at the expiration of her time, resumed her pie making, for which she had a greater demand than before." I. C. *See vol. i., pp. 255 and 258.*

1767 (*August*).—James Rippon and John Rippon, of Wolveston, shoemakers, were tried at the assizes at Durham, for the murder of George Hull. They were found guilty, and burnt in the hand

August. Ann Wilson, of Harraton, was tried at the assizes at Durham, for knocking out her husband Thomas Wilson's brains, with an axe. Found guilty, but insane.

1768 (*May*).—"The sailors did much mischief at Sunderland, and at North and South Shields." I. C. *See vol. i. page 265.*

1770 (*Aug. 6*).—There was no order in Hazlitt's sentence that he should be hung in chains. *See vol. i. page 274.*

1774 (*May 16*).—"The duke of Northumberland and family, subscribed most liberally to the building, about £1,200. Others of the nobility in the county, and gentlemen, very handsomely. The duke of Richmond, who received £16,000 per annum on coals, when applied to, gave for answer, 'he never came to Newcastle.'" I. C. See *vol. i. page 299*.

1775 (*March 14*).—As a farmer at Morton-banks, near Bingley, was making a drain, he found a copper chest 20 inches below the surface of the ground, containing near 100 weight of Roman silver coins, coined at fifteen different periods from the time of Julius Cæsar downwards. There was also in the chest a silver image about six inches long.

1776 (*July 5*).—"The (looking) glass was shivered into pieces of the size of No. 3 shot, rents were in the front of the house two inches wide." I. C. See *vol. i. page 305*.

July. Mr. Knipe preached on Holy Island, from Exod. iii. 5, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground,"

1779 (*Sept. 23*).—Paul Jones appeared on the coast of Northumberland, after having made a regular progress round Scotland. He had become so notorious, that his appearance on this coast, where he lingered a whole day and captured a sloop, caused a great consternation. It happened a few days before, that the duke of Northumberland's audit had been held at the castle, and the whole of the rents, mostly paid in gold, were deposited there, these would have afforded a grand prize for the pirate, had he been aware of the circumstance. The bailiff at the castle was most firmly persuaded that Paul knew of the audit, and had come expressly for the purpose of carrying off the cash, as he had done at Lord Selkirk's in Scotland, a short time before. Under this impression, he prevailed on the commander of the Huntingdonshire militia to garrison the castle, and prepare some of the cannon for its defence during the night. Accordingly the gates were barricadoed and every preparation made for repelling an assault, but, however, the castle was left unmolested, as Paul had proceeded on his voyage, and on the above day, meeting with the Baltic fleet near Flamborough head, on the coast of Yorkshire, convoyed by the Serapis frigate of 44 guns, commanded by Captain Pearson, and the Countess of Scarborough, armed ship of 20 guns, commanded by Captain Thomas Piercy, a very severe action took place, in which Jones was victorious, and the Serapis and Countess of Scarborough were taken, but the convoy escaped. The result was one of the most memorable naval actions upon record in the annals of the navy, both sides shewing the most resolute and desperate courage, until the English, overpowered by numbers, were obliged to surrender. Jones commanded an American ship of war called the Bon Homme Richard, of 40 guns, and 375 men; a frigate called the Alliance, of 40 guns, and 300 men; the Pallas, another frigate, (French) of 30 guns, and 275 men; and the Vengeance, an armed brig of 12 guns, and 70 men. Mr. Parker, of Newcastle, has painted and lithographed a portrait of

old Taylor, of Cullercoats, who lost his arm and an eye in the engagement with Paul Jones.

1779 (*Nov. 15*).—"He had an enormous appetite, eat all kinds of garbage, he could put up even with the most incredibly disgusting articles." I. C. *See vol. i. page 317.*

1781 (*May 1*). "Proprietor Dr. Hall; Mr. Gibson and Mr. Abbs, surgeons; —. Craneson, a performer at the theatre, architect." I. C. *See vol. i. page 320.* An original view of the baths engraved by Mr. Beilby, from a drawing by Craneson, may be had of John Sykes.

1786 (*Sept. 19*).—"He was eating nuts, consequently required the use of both hands. The border on which he fell had been lately digged, into which he sunk above his knees, from which shock his bowels were totally displaced." I. C. *See vol. i. page 340.*

1789 (*Nov. 16*).—"The pews, &c. &c., of mahogany, were originally intended to have been wainscot. Mrs. Baker, and her sister, Mrs. Atlee, who were then living in the parish, made up the difference of the cost." I. C. *See vol. i. page 353.*

1791 (*Aug. 18*).—"Believed from too large a quantity of lamp black in an upper loft, which heated and ignited." I. C. *See vol. i. page 358.*

1791 (*September*).—"A furnace for the purpose of making shot red hot to fire at an enemy's ship." I. C. *See vol. i. page 359.*

1795.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Thomas Squire, an eccentric character. He was a native of Aberdeen, and was apprenticed to a stocking weaver, during which period of his life he was distinguished for piety, sobriety, and industry. When a journeyman, he married "a bonny lassie," whom he doted upon, but she turning a disgusting drunkard, he wandered the remainder of his days like a wretched outcast from society—suspecting all men and hating all women. After travelling through various parts of Scotland and England, he came to Newcastle, for which place he retained a strong partiality. He subsisted by making spits, toasting-forks, &c., which he sometimes sold wholesale to the hawkers of petty wares, and which he sometimes retailed himself in the neighbouring villages. While in Ayrshire, several circumstances had combined to renew his youthful predilection for reading and abstruse inquiries. Thomas Squire, who was self taught, possessed considerable knowledge of the classics, and understood the mathematics well, but his attention was mostly directed to subjects of metaphysics and of political economy. He was of very retired habits, and lived in a garret room at the foot of a lane nearly opposite to the sign of Jacob's Well, in Sandgate. His furniture consisted of a very large oaken chest, which contained his books, a stool, a few porringers, an iron pot; and a sack full of straw with a blanket, formed his bed. The walls were covered with mathematical figures, which, with a few optical glasses, constituted the embellishments of his apartment. No woman was ever permitted to enter his door. Here would this solitary being sit for weeks together, studying some favourite author, indulging reveries, and projecting schemes for bettering the

political condition of man. He had formed an Utopian republic with which he was highly pleased. Necessity compelled Squire one day to visit Newburn, with his wares, where, on entering a public house, a party of drunken keelmen threw him against the fire, because he refused to drink, "*damnation to the French.*" The exertions of the landlady saved him from receiving much harm, but this circumstance produced a powerful effect upon his mind. After this, he seldom went abroad, except to purchase provisions, and materials for his work. The outcry at that time (1794) raised against democrats, and the suspension of the *habeas corpus*, increased his alarms, and he persuaded himself that he had become an object of suspicion to the police; under this impression he sent for a friend, and communicated in confidence that he had removed a brick from the chimney and made a snug place for concealing his MSS., which he was sure would escape the search of the police should they visit him. This friend having occasion to leave Newcastle, learnt on his return two years after Squire's death, that his books had been sold to pay his landlord and the funeral expenses. This singular man, who at his death was about 50 years of age, was under the middle size, with a strongly marked Scottish physiognomy; his hair was red and tied in a queue, and he halted in his gait. He afforded a striking instance of how little is required to sustain life. His food was simple, and according to his own account taken in extremely small quantities at regular intervals. He entertained a high opinion of the nutritious qualities of turnips, and believed they would prove as wholesome and fattening to man as to animals, if regularly eaten. On the visit of a friend, he pronounced a warm panegyric on the excellent adaptation of this root for human food, and affirmed that for three months he had eaten nothing else; a bunch of turnips lay on the floor, and he pointed out the various and simple modes he had adopted for cooking them; he had also extracted a kind of spirit from turnips which was bottled up. At this time he looked very pale, thin, and weakly, and his death was attributed to these dangerous experiments. His apartment, it is thought, is not now known, or the very curious MSS. which he concealed in the chimney might perhaps be recovered.

1796 (*July 27*).—A grand musical festival, under the patronage of Prince William of Gloucester, commenced at Newcastle, and was continued during the three following days. The oratorios were performed in St. Nicholas' church on the mornings, and the concerts in the Assembly-rooms each evening. The elder Cramer was leader of the band; the tickets were £1. 11s. 6d. each, but the conductors of this undertaking, it is said, lost 120 guineas, besides all their trouble and fatigue.

1800 (*June 14*).—A man named Wilkinson, a mariner of Lynn, had recourse to begging in Newcastle, and amongst other houses came to that of one Moffatt, a person who took care of horses in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, where the usual application was made; the husband was not at home, but Mrs. Moffatt gave him some bread and cheese and small beer; she then presented him with a

hatchet, telling him that she in turn had one request to make, which was, that having been long plagued with her fingers, he would be so kind as to cut them off with that hatchet, laying both hands at the same time upon the table for the purpose. The astonished mendicant drew back and knew not what to do. She however persisted in her demand, he at length was monster enough to strike a blow at her hands with the hatchet, by which three fingers of one hand and two of the other were cut off, and another much injured. The woman was sent to the Infirmary, and the man to the house of correction. She was occasionally subject to fits of insanity.

1805 (*Sept. 15*).—This day (Sunday), at noon, William Cuzen, a private in the royal artillery, aged about 28 years, blew out his brains with a horse pistol, near the village of Westoe, South Shields. A short time before, he called at a public house in Westoe, and wrote a letter, of which the following is a copy:—

“ Mr. EDWARD CHADWICK, } Burgh Hall,
 “ Mr. THOMAS CHADWICK, } Lancashire.”
 “ Ab hoc memento pencit æternitas !”

“ Dreadful attempt !

“ Just reeking from self-slaughter, in a rage,

“ To rush into the presence of our judge ;

“ As if we

“ matter’d not his wrath ! Unheard-of tortures

“ Must be reserv’d for such : these herd together,

“ The common damn’d shun their society,

“ And look upon themselves as fiends less foul.”

“ WM. CUZEN.”

“ I once had thousands, and was once philosopher enough to brave misfortunes, but I have been neglected, therefore have I done this. I am gone a long journey, but *if possible*, will return to torment ingratitude. I was ever grateful. The world has lost an ornament, a diamond in the rough.”

The coroner’s inquest returned a verdict of *lunacy*. Part of the letter is a quotation from Blair’s Poem of “ The Grave.”

1807 (*June 21*).—A remarkably large eel, measuring 35 inches in length, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches girth over the shoulder, and weighing four pounds, was taken out of a small well in the village of Morrick, in Northumberland. The well did not exceed six feet in depth, and scarcely measured three feet in diameter, and had no visible communication with any river or pond. When first discovered, it was sporting on the surface of the water.

1808 (*April 19*).—The people at the Forth, Newcastle, were disturbed in the enjoyment of their annual amusements by a *fracas* of rather a serious nature, between some boys and a party of the recruits of the Wiltshire militia. The boys, according to their annual custom, were amusing themselves with a game at football in the interior of the Forth, when the soldiers, no doubt for the sake of *fun*, interrupted them in their diversion, by running after them and tripping up their heels. The boys being reinforced by their friends, and encouraged by another party of military, set manfully

upon their opponents, and with stones, brick bats, and other missiles, kept up such a determined discharge, that they compelled their antagonists, though superior in numbers, to seek their safety in a precipitate retreat. Luckily the scene of action being near the Infirmary, the wounded were conveyed thither. Two men received severe wounds on the head, and many were slightly hurt.

1810 (*April 15*).—"George Augusta, the 5th earl of Scarborough was the person to relieve Sir Thomas, by calling a meeting of the baronets in London, to take his case into consideration." I. C. See *vol. ii. page 55*.

1813 (*Nov. 11*).—About three o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in a wooden tenement, in a garden, in Pandon Dean, near Vine-lane, Newcastle, occupied by a person named Brown, a house carpenter, as a workshop and dwelling-room. All the clothes, tools, furniture, and stock in trade of the sufferer were consumed.

1815 (*Nov. 22*).—Died, in the High-bridge, Newcastle, Mr. James Sands, aged 40 years. He had been confined to his room above 30 years, in consequence of a paralytic affection. Through the strength of his genius, he surmounted every difficulty his peculiar situation opposed to the acquisition of knowledge, having, without instruction, made an extraordinary proficiency in the ancient and modern languages, and acquired considerable skill in various branches of the sciences. He was the author of the following novels, which were very favourably received by the public, viz: "*Monckton, or the Fate of Eleanor*," 3 vols.; "*Count de Novini, or the Confederate Carthusians*," 3 vols.; "*The Eventful Marriage*," 4 vols.; and "*Dangerous Secrets*," 2 vols. He was also the author of "*The Oath*," a play, which was performed in the Newcastle theatre. He likewise contributed a great number of ingenious poetical pieces, essays, letters, &c., to different periodical publications.

1817 (*Jan. 4*). Died, in Newcastle, Mr. Ralph Beilby, a native of Durham, in the 74th year of his age. He was the son of Mr. William Beilby, a respectable jeweller and goldsmith in Durham, but being unsuccessful in business, he removed to Newcastle. Ralph having learnt to be a silversmith, jeweller, and seal engraver under his father, he became the common resource in several useful arts and accomplishments. To the engraving of arms and letters on seals and silver plate, he added engraving on copper, as there were at that time no engravers in the north of England. See the year 1740, *vol. i. page 165*. Mr Beilby executed heraldic engravings with extraordinary facility, and his plate of "*Thornton's Monument*," in Brand's History of Newcastle, shows that he also possessed considerable skill in his engraving upon copper. But he was most distinguished for his literary and scientific pursuits; he also understood the science of music well, and in his youth played double bass at the Rev. Dr. Brown's private concerts. He was one of the first and warmest promoters of the Literary and Philosophical

Society of Newcastle, and was highly esteemed. For a memoir of Mr. Thomas Bewick, his apprentice, and afterwards his partner, *see page 227.*

1822 (*Feb. 28*).—About twelve o'clock at night, while two men and two boys were ascending the engine pit at Burradon colliery, and had got a little way from the bottom, melancholy to relate, by some accident, the rope gave way, which falling upon them, killed them all. It appeared in evidence on the coroner's inquest, that the rope was quite a good one, and such as would have worked six months, and that the part which broke had only been subject to wear about a month, from which it was inferred, that it must have met with some accident which had nearly separated it, and had consequently given way when the individuals got upon it. Verdict, *accidental death.*

1822 (*Dec. 19*).—David George Clayter, a private in the 3d regiment of Dragoon Guards, was found dead in a field at Sandhoe, near Hexham, having shot himself through the body with a horse pistol which was lying near him. The cause and circumstances of this shocking act, as developed before the coroner and a respectable jury, were most heart rending, it being clear that the unfortunate young man (who had been six years in the regiment, and was highly and deservedly respected by his officers and comrades) fell a victim to his ardent attachment to his wife! About a month before, he had been married at Gretna Green, to a young woman named Jane Stokoe, servant in a respectable family in Carlisle, (where he was quartered), and a daughter of Mr. Ralph Stokoe, smith and publican, at Sandhoe. This match having displeased the parents, the mother went to Carlisle, and persuaded the daughter to return home with her, under the pretext of paying a visit to her family, but in reality under the idea that a marriage at Gretna Green was not binding, and that the connexion might be dissolved if the parties were once separated. After the departure of his wife and her mother, the unfortunate husband finding that they had taken away every article of his wife's clothing from their lodgings, and comparing this circumstance with the previous conversation of the mother, the dreadful truth flashed upon his mind, and, in a state of distraction he wrote a most affecting letter to his wife, which did not reach her hand, as she had previously been sent away to a relation's at Sunderland-bridge, in the county of Durham; but it was opened by her family at Sandhoe. Not receiving an answer, he obtained a furlough up to the 18th of December, and set out on Sunday the 15th for Sandhoe, where he arrived early on the following morning. Here, of course, he could not find the object of his search, nor obtain from her parents any account whither she had gone, which they studiously kept from him. This raised his mind to a state bordering on phrenzy, and he wandered between Sandhoe and Hexham, until the 19th, when he terminated his existence as above stated. Tied round his arm were found a letter to his mother-in-law, dated the 18th, upbraiding her as the cruel cause of the act he was about to commit, and two letters dated the

17th and 18th, to his wife, incoherently written, but breathing the most ardent affection for her, and inclosing in one of them a cheque upon the Neath Bank in Glamorganshire, for three hundred pounds, with six years' interest, which he bequeathed to her, hoping that she would never want. These two letters were inclosed in a note to his wife's brother in Hexham, desiring him to forward them to her, as he could rely on no one else to do it, and mentioning that one of them contained £400. These letters were severally read at the coroner's inquest, and their perusal excited a deep sympathy in the coroner and jury. Verdict, *lunacy*.

1823 (*Sept. 24*).—An elegant silver cup was given to Mr. Thomas Forsyth, sergeant at mace, by several of the drapers in Newcastle, for his exertions as a police officer in that town. The cup bore an appropriate inscription, and was presented by Mr. Robert Oliver, on behalf of the subscribers, in a neat speech, which Mr. Forsyth acknowledged in return. The party partook of a supper at the house of Mr. Teasdale, sign of the Dun Cow, Quay-side, and spent the evening with the greatest conviviality.

1824 (*Feb.*).—Died, at Low Gosforth, near Newcastle, Mary Dees, aged upwards of 100 years. A portrait of this centenarian was sketched and also etched by Mr. Parker.

August 31.—The lord bishop of Oxford consecrated a new chapel of ease which had been erected at Hall Yards, near Mickley, in the parish of Ovingham, Northumberland, at the sole expense of J. B. Wrightson, esq. More than one half of the congregation assembled to witness the solemn ceremony were unable to gain admission into the interior of the chapel, which was crowded to excess. A most impressive sermon was preached by the Rev. James Birkett, jun., A.M., domestic chaplain to the right hon. Lord Arden, from 2d Chron. chap. vi. verses 40 and 41.

November 5.—Nearly fifty vessels were wrecked on the dangerous rocks near Hawthorn Dene, in the county of Durham, together with all their crews, excepting that belonging to the ship *Dido*, which was wrecked betwixt two rocks, about thirty yards from the shore, where the late Major George Anderson, of Newcastle, who witnessed the distressing scene, had collected all his servants in order to render every possible assistance to the unfortunate mariners, who, having lost their mainmast, foremast, and rudder, collected themselves upon the bowsprit, and made several fruitless attempts to throw a rope to the shore; fortunately, however, the Major had an excellent Newfoundland dog, which by encouragement, after several dangerous attempts, succeeded in catching hold of the rope, and brought it through the raging surges to the Major and his servants, who held it till all the crew (fourteen in number) had escaped from the foaming gulph, which threatened them with destruction. The crew having been refreshed with every necessary comfort at the Major's house, departed after gratefully thanking their preservers; and so affected were the feelings of the captain's wife, that on the following day she visited Hawthorn Hive Cottage, the Major's residence, where she, with

streaming eyes, expressed her gratitude, and falling upon her knees, kissed the dog which had been so essentially instrumental in saving her husband and the crew.

1825 (*July*).—About three o'clock on the morning a fire broke out in the Cumberland, a trader between Newcastle and London, which was then lying in the river Tyne, off South Shields, with a valuable cargo of goods for the latter port. There was about £2000 worth of whalebone belonging to one gentleman on board, besides lead and other goods. The origin of the fire was unknown, but it was conjectured that a quantity of charcoal in the hold had ignited. By great exertions the vessel was got over the river to the Dortwich sand, on the north side, but all attempts to extinguish the flames were unavailing till she was reduced to a shell, and the greater part of the goods was destroyed.

September 16.—About half-past ten o'clock at night, a person having the appearance of a porter, brought a travelling trunk to the Turf Hotel coach-office, in Collingwood-street, Newcastle, where it was left for the purpose of being forwarded the following morning to Edinburgh. The address it bore was "James Syme, esq., 6, Forth-street, Edinburgh," but in consequence of its having been deposited in that part of the office where packages were placed for the south coach, and no coaches going north on Sunday, it was detained till the Monday, when a most nauseous smell was felt from a liquid oozing therefrom. When the trunk was opened by order of the magistrates, it was found to contain the body of a young woman supposed to be about 19 years of age, of fair complexion, light eyes, and yellow hair, and without any marks of violence. The body, after a coroner's inquest, was interred.

1826 (*Jan. 15.*)—The dead body of a man was discovered in a common deal box brought from beyond York, to the Turf Hotel coach-office, in Collingwood-street, Newcastle, for Edinburgh. It was interred at the Ballast-hills.

January 26.—Another box from the south was opened at the Turf Hotel, coach-office, and the body of a little old woman found therein, which also was interred at the Ballast-hills. An extensive traffic in dead bodies appeared to be carrying on at this time by the resurrectionists in the south and the Edinburgh lecturers on anatomy.

February 21.—The death of Mr. Brandling having occasioned a vacancy in the representation of Northumberland, the hon. H. T. Liddell, of Eslington, and Matthew Bell, esq., of Woolsington, began a very spirited canvas. The polling which commenced at Alnwick on the above day, was carried on with great determination, until the 7th of March, when Mr. Liddell declined any further contest, and Mr. Bell was chaired. At the close of the poll the numbers for each candidate were:—Mr. Bell 1,186, Mr. Liddell 1,150. Mr. Liddell made his entry into Newcastle on the 8th of March, Mr. Bell the day following. The crowds which assembled on both occasions were so awfully dense, that many were nearly suffocated. One young woman had her thigh bone broken, another

her ribs broken and otherwise dreadfully bruised. The mixture of carriages, horses, and people, was terrific in the extreme. An active canvas immediately commenced on the parts of Mr. Bell, Mr. Liddell, Lord Howick, and Mr. Beaumont, for the general election.

1826 (*June 13*).—In consequence of T. W. Beaumont, esq., M. P. for Northumberland, Matthew Bell, esq., M. P. (who had succeeded Mr. Brandling), Lord Howick, and the hon. H. T. Liddell, having started as candidates for Northumberland, at the general election, a county meeting was ordered by the sheriff to be held at Morpeth on the above day, to consider who were proper persons to represent the county in parliament. The shew of hands was declared by the under-sheriff to be in favour of the hon. H. T. Liddell and T. W. Beaumont, esq. June the 20th the polling commenced at Alnwick, and was carried on with great spirit until July the 6th, when the hon. H. T. Liddell and Matthew Bell, esq., were duly elected. The numbers were,—Mr. Liddell 1,562, Mr. Bell 1,380, Mr. Beaumont 1,335, and Lord Howick 976. His lordship declined the contest on the 3d of July.* On the 7th Mr. Liddell, Mr. Bell, and Mr. Beaumont arrived in Newcastle, and addressed the multitudes assembled in front of their respective committee rooms. Mr. Beaumont was afterwards returned for Stafford.

August 27.—Being Sunday, a joiner was placed in the stocks in St. Nicholas' church-yard, in Newcastle, nearly two hours, for having disturbed the congregation in the church, by exclaiming "*Bell for Ever*," whilst the service was proceeding. He was in a state of intoxication at the time.

1827 (*Jan. 17*).—About one o'clock on the morning a fire broke out at Tanfield Moor staith, at Dunstan, near Newcastle. By the speedy arrival of the engines from the latter place, it was got under after a destruction to the amount of about £500.

January.—For several days the wind blew a complete hurricane. A new house in Brandling-place, near Newcastle, was entirely levelled with the ground, and the gable end of another thrown down. A new house in Gateshead also lost its gable. Numerous chimneys were thrown down, and the gardens and enclosures shewed its ravages. Several keels were sunk in the river Tyne; one with a valuable cargo of crown glass.

November 3.—The freeholders of Northumberland and friends of Mr. Bell, presented him at the Assembly-rooms, in Newcastle, with an elegant piece of silver plate, a candelabrum, value £500.

1828 (*Feb.*).—The new gaol and house of correction at Newcastle were finished, and the prisoners, &c., were removed to that building.

March 13.—The Tyne Yeomanry Hussars were finally disbanded, and returned their arms and accoutrements to the stores in Gateshead.

* A duel arose out of this severe and spirited contest. See *July 1st*, page, 197.

1828 (*March 27*).—Died, aged 72 years, highly respected, Mr. Ralph Dees, who had held the situation of master of St. Nicholas' and All Saints' Free-schools in succession for 42 years, and had been secretary to the Schoolmasters' Association for above 30 years. He was an unassuming and upright man, an excellent penman, and a good teacher.

May 7.—The Court of Conscience first established in Newcastle in the year 1689, and held every three months, was, on the above day, commenced being held monthly. *See vol. i. page 123.*

August 9.—An anonymous letter, of which the following is a copy, was received by Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., M. P., who gave the money to the Dispensary of Newcastle.

“ Newcastle, Aug. 9, 1828.

“ Sir,—I swindled your late father out of £3. 3s. about thirty years since. I am extremely sorry for what I did; I have inclosed the amount. May the Lord bless you, dear Sir, and all your family, is the prayer of your obedient servant.” For another letter of this description, *see May 23d, 1832, page 359.*

September 1.—Peter Macmillan undertook to walk 110 miles in 24 successive hours, on a half-mile piece of ground near the race course, Newcastle. He commenced his arduous undertaking at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and completed it within the limited time.

September 15.—Mary Macmillan, his mother, aged 64 years, undertook to walk 92 miles in 24 successive hours, on the race course, which she also completed. Numbers attended to witness these pedestrian feats.

September 29.—A new post coach commenced running between Penrith and Hexham, being the first public conveyance that had traversed the extensive mining district of Alston Moor, and the beautiful and romantic scenery adjoining the mountainous ridge in which it is situated, thus affording great facilities for visiting the lead mines, and opening out an entirely new line of communication across the kingdom.

October 27.—The Post-office, in Newcastle, was removed from Mosley-street to St. Nicholas' church-yard, a situation generally complained of, but on the 21st of August 1832, it was removed to the Royal Arcade in Pilgrim-street, a most desirable situation.

1829 (*Oct. 1*).—At a meeting of the trustees of the Ponteland road, Matthew Bell, esq., M. P., in the chair, the report of Mr. Thos. Sopwith, of Newcastle, surveyor, on a proposed new line of road from Newcastle to Otterburn, was resolved to be acted upon in preference to the line surveyed under the direction of Mr. M^r Adam. An act was afterwards obtained, and the road made under the direction of Mr. Luke Pearson, of Newcastle.

1829.—The chief part of the abbey church-yard, in Durham, on the north side, was levelled, and the rubbish which had accumulated near the walls removed. During the operation many ancient coffin lids of stone were found. One which covered the remains of a child in a stone coffin below, appeared to belong to the Norman period, and was curiously ornamented. It was at this time

discovered that the effigy near the north door, said to represent a man who leapt from one of the towers for a purse of gold, and was killed by the fall, was in reality the effigy of a Lady Lumley who had been buried below. Bishop Mathews' license (*see vol. i. p. 81.*) authorises John Lord Lumley to remove the bones of his male ancestors only, and it proves their place of sepulture to have been near the north door of the church, the very place in question.

1830 (*Nov. 8*).—Several curious stones rudely carved, and apparently having formed part of a Roman arch and pillar, were dug out of the summit of the lofty mound of earth called the "Ha' Hill," near the new gaol at Morpeth.

1831.—This year, the ruins of Benwell-hall, near Newcastle, were entirely removed, and a new stone building in a castellated form, erected upon the old foundation. It is the property of Thomas Crawhall, esq. *See October 12th, 1811, page 63.*

Tuesday, died near Ovingham, Mrs. Elizabeth Coulson, aged 103 years. *Copied from a fragment of a local newspaper without a date.*

The following occurrences having taken place during the printing of the addenda, they may be considered as following page 367.

1832 (*July 7*).—Died, of apoplexy, at Pendennis Castle, of which he was lieutenant governor, Lieutenant Colonel William Fenwick, C.B. and K.T.S. He was the youngest son of the late Thomas Fenwick, of Earsdon, in Northumberland, esq., at which place he was born in the year 1777. In 1792 he joined the 34th regiment of foot at Limerick. This regiment was shortly afterwards removed to Dublin, and in 1794 embarked for England, from thence to the Island of Walcheren, and, after remaining a short time there, embarked for the West Indies, where it arrived early in 1795. Lieut. Col. Fenwick was present at the reduction of St. Vincents, and in several engagements with the enemy during that period. He arrived in England the latter end of the year 1796, where the regiment was stationed until the latter end of 1799, when it was embarked for the Cape of Good Hope, where it remained until the peace in 1802; it then proceeded to the East Indies, and remained there until the latter end of the year 1807. Early the following year Lieut. Col. Fenwick was ordered to Jersey with the 2d battalion of his regiment, and proceeded from thence to Lisbon, where it landed on the 3d of July, 1809. He commanded that battalion at the battle of Busaco, in the lines near Lisbon, at Albuera, Arroyo de Moulines, Vittoria, and various others in different parts of Portugal and Spain, particularly in the vale of Bustan, and was always effective with his corps, until severely wounded in the knee at the

Maya Pass in the Pyrenees on the 25th of July, 1813, in consequence of which he suffered amputation very high up the right thigh, and on his arrival in England, was appointed lieutenant governor of Pendennis Castle, and soon after made a Companion of the Bath. The gazette of April the 9th, 1816, contained the Prince Regent's (afterwards George IV.) permission to Lieutenant-Colonel Fenwick, to accept the Portuguese order of the Tower and Sword, conferred upon him by the Prince Regent of Portugal, for his distinguished courage in the Peninsula. He had also the honour of wearing a medal for the battle of Albuera, and a clasp for that of Vittoria. The following is copied from "The Falmouth Packet and Cornish Herald" of the 14th of July, 1832, where Lieut. Col. Fenwick was well known and respected. After giving an outline of his military career, it states, "as an officer he was respected and beloved by all ranks, and in private life, he shone conspicuously in the discharge of his relative and social duties. His charity was as extensive as it was unostentatious; his humility, his integrity, and his undeviating rectitude, endeared him to a sorrowing circle of friends, in whose joys and sorrows he ever largely participated, and who, while they deeply mourn the awful event, rejoice in the consoling belief, that their loss, is his unspeakable gain."

1832 (*July 8*).—In the evening of this day (Sunday), Cuthbert Skipsey, a pitman belonging to Percy Main colliery, was unfortunately shot at Chirton, near North Shields, in an affray between some pitmen and special constables, the latter of whom were appointed to protect such of the workmen as were unconnected with the *strike* among the colliers. At the inquest, which was held on the Tuesday at the Rose inn, Willington, before Stephen Reed, esq., coroner, much contradictory evidence was given—the police party stating that there was a general *row*, and that Skipsey struggled with a policeman named George Weddell, to get possession of his pistol, whilst the witnesses on the other side stated that the deceased went up to Weddell to endeavour to make peace, and that Weddell immediately pushed him back and shot him. The jury, after about an hour's consultation, returned a verdict of *manslaughter* against Weddell, who was admitted to bail to appear at the assizes. August 3d, after a trial which continued about twelve hours, Weddell was found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment and hard labour.

July 20.—Died, in All Saints' poor-house, in Newcastle, William Purvis, better known as *Blind Willie*. For accounts of this eccentric, see February the 7th, 1819, p. 118; May the 14th, 1828, p. 218, and July 27th, 1831, p. 305. As promised at page 118, Mr. Robert Gilchrist, the local poet, has, as his last local effusion, written an epitaph on this *famed musician*.

August 1.—An inquisition, founded on a commission of escheat, issued under the great seal, was taken at the Queen's Head inn, Newcastle, before William Wightman and James Losh, esqrs., barristers at law, and George Maule, esq., solicitor to the treasury,

and a respectable jury, when it was found that William Moulton, formerly of the Castle Garth in that town, skinner and glover, deceased, was at the time of his death seised of certain property, called the Ship Entry, in the Old Flesh Market in that town; that he made a will devising the property for a charitable purpose, but which by the statute of mortmain was void, and that he died in December, 1772, without an heir, that the property became vested in the crown, as an escheat, but it was understood that it was probable his majesty would be graciously pleased to direct that it should be applied according to William Moulton's intentions, as expressed in the will. This point was gained on a petition of the parish officers of St Nicholas, by whose exertions and attention, the parish was likely to derive a considerable benefit, after a lapse of nearly sixty years.

1832 (*Aug. 1*).—William Jobling was tried at the assizes at Durham, and found guilty of the murder of Nicholas Fairles, esq., as stated at page 365. He was sentenced to be hanged on Friday, August the 3d, and his body to be afterwards hung in chains near the scene of the murder. Soon after twelve o'clock Jobling suffered the extreme penalty of the law, on the drop erected in front of the county courts at Durham. After his condemnation, he was very attentive to his religious duties, and he exhibited on his way to and upon the scaffold, the utmost resignation and fortitude. He acknowledged, while in prison, the justice of his sentence, though he denied having been the principal in the fatal transaction which led to his ignominious death; he earnestly entreated a reverend gentleman, who attended him, to express to Mrs. Fairles and her family, his sorrow for what had taken place, and to assure her and them, that when he met Mr. Fairles, which was accidental, he had no intention to harm him. He hoped they would forgive him, as he sincerely forgave all mankind who had at any time done him any injury. His step was firm as he entered upon the scaffold, but the power of articulation failed him, and he was in consequence unable to address the spectators, as he had stated it to be his intention to do. He could neither read nor write, but had procured a friend to transcribe some scraps from books which had been read to him in the gaol, which he wished to scatter among the crowd. He was dissuaded from doing this, and he gave them to the governor of the prison to deliver to a person whom he named. Just as the fatal bolt was about to be withdrawn, a person near the scaffold cried out "Farewell Jobling," and he instantly turned his head in the direction whence the voice proceeded, which displaced the cord, and consequently protracted his sufferings, which continued for some minutes. After hanging an hour, the body was cut down and conveyed into the gaol, where it remained until the gibbet was ready. It was a very wet day, consequently the crowd was not so numerous as was anticipated. Fifty of the 8th hussars mounted, and fifty of the 15th regiment of foot, were drawn up in front of the drop, where they remained until the body was cut down. A portion of these regiments had marched from

Newcastle to Durham for the purpose, and also to escort the body to Jarrow Slake. After the body was conveyed into the gaol, the clothes were taken off but no incision made, it was then covered over with pitch, and the clothes in which he was hanged were replaced.

This wood cut portrait of Jobling is from a sketch by Mr. Bouet, artist, of Durham, taken whilst upon his trial.



On monday morning, August the 6th, at seven o'clock, the body was taken in a small four wheeled waggon, drawn by two horses, from Durham, escorted by a troop of hussars, and two companies of infantry, T. Griffith, esq., the under sheriff, Mr. Frushard, the gaoler, officers of the gaol, bailiffs, &c. &c. They proceeded by way of Chester-le-Street, Picktree, Sludge-row, Porto Bello, over the Black Fell, to White Mare Pool, and thence by the South Shields turnpike-road, to Jarrow Slake, where they arrived at half-past one o'clock. The spectators were not numerous, perhaps about 1,000, and not many pitmen amongst them, on account it was supposed, of a meeting being held by them that day on Boldon Fell. On the arrival of the cavalcade at Jarrow Slake, it was joined by Bryan Abbs and William Loraine, esqrs., magistrates of the county; the military were then drawn up, and formed two sides of a square, the cavalry on the right, and the infantry on the left. The body was then lifted from the waggon. It was cased in flat bars of iron of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth, the feet were placed in stirrups, from which a bar of iron went up each side of the head, and

ended in a ring by which he was suspended ; a bar from the collar went down the breast, and another down the back ; there were also bars in the inside of the legs which communicated with the above ; and cross bars at the ankles, the knees, the thighs, the bowels, the breast and shoulders ; the hands were hung by the sides, and covered with pitch ; the face was pitched and covered with a piece of white cloth. Being laid on a hand barrow, the body was conveyed to the gibbet, which was fixed nearly opposite the spot where the murder was committed, and about 100 yards within the Slake from high water mark. The gibbet, which was fixed in a stone $1\frac{1}{2}$ ton weight sunk in the Slake, was formed of a square piece of timber (fir) twenty-one feet long, and a top projecting about three feet, with strong bars of iron up each side to prevent its being sawn down. At high water the tide covered the gibbet about four or five feet, leaving sixteen or seventeen feet visible. The body being hoisted up and secured, a police guard was placed near the spot, and remained there for some time. Jobling was the first person gibbeted under the new act of parliament, ordering the bodies of murderers to be hung in chains. The body, when gibbeted, had on the clothes in which the criminal appeared upon his trial :—blue jacket and trowsers, the heel-quarters of his shoes were down, and through a large hole in one of his stockings, the naked heel was visible ; his head was thrown quite back, so that his face appeared as if looking upwards. During the very dark night between the 31st of August and the 1st of, September, Jobling's body was stolen from the gibbet and secretly disposed of by some persons unknown.

1832 (*Aug.* 8).—The passing of the reform bills was celebrated at Berwick, including Tweedmouth and Spital, which form but one united and reformed borough, the procession, dinners, &c., went off with great *eclat*. The illumination in the evening was beautiful and general, every house and hovel presenting a blaze of light. The Berwick Advertiser in describing the festivity, states, “ Berwick has no day recorded in its annals that may for a moment be termed its equal ; and a thousand years may come and pass, and still none like unto it be found.”

1832 (*Aug.* 11).—A most dreadful murder was committed at Horncliff upon the river Tweed, near Berwick. Two young men of the names of Paxton and Percy, had a dispute about a game cock, which led to frequent quarrels between them, and, on the day above-mentioned, they again came to high words, and eventually blows. While this was going on, Percy's father, an old man, procured a large knife, and deliberately attacking his son's opponent, stabbed him in the belly, cutting him across, so that his bowels, as he fell, protruded on the ground. Not content with this savage deed, he turned upon Paxton's brother, and stabbed him in several places. The first victim lingered till the following morning (Sunday), in great agony, when death relieved him from his sufferings, the other young man was in a hopeless state. Old Percy retired to a corn field and cut his own throat, but not effectually, as he was found bleeding shortly after, and the wound having been attended to, he

was in a few days removed to Durham gaol, there to await his trial for these horrid crimes.

1832 (*Aug. 14*).—The members of the Northern Political Union celebrated the passing of the reform bills, by a public dinner in the Spital-field, in Newcastle, the use of which had been readily granted by Archibald Reed, esq., mayor. A large canvas covering was erected, under which the tables calculated to accommodate 1,000 persons, were fixed, but not one-half of that number was present. At two o'clock the council of the Union arrived on the ground, attended by a band of music and several banners, after having paraded some of the streets of the town. Charles Attwood, esq., of Whickham, took the chair, and was supported on his right by Mr. Owen, of the National Political Union. Messrs. Thomas Doubleday and Charles Larkin officiated as vice-chairmen. The dinner consisted of roast and boiled beef, together with plum-puddings and ale. The dinner, speeches, and toasts occupied the meeting until seven o'clock in the evening. The first toast was "The King," and the next "The People," after which followed "Earl Grey and the Ministry, for their introduction and support of the reform bill," which was drunk with great applause. The chairman addressed the meeting at considerable length, after which the meeting was addressed by Mr. Owen, Mr. Doubleday, Mr. Larkin, and the Rev. Mr. Wright from Sunderland. It was recommended by a placard, that the shops should be closed, but this was only attended to in one or two instances. An illumination was whispered, but the good sense of the inhabitants frustrated this attempt also; a hand bill issued by the mayor on the preceding day, having strongly recommended the inhabitants not to light up, as the cholera then raged so heavily in the town. The meat which remained after this dinner, was on the following day distributed among upwards of 300 persons, and soup and rolls of bread to upwards of 400 persons.

August 24.—The right honourable Earl Grey, K. G., and first lord of the treasury, having left London for his seat, Howick Hall, in Northumberland, was enthusiastically greeted at almost every town through which his lordship passed. On the above day his lordship alighted at the King's Head, in Darlington, and walked in front of the inn during the time of changing horses, and was most heartily cheered on his departure. His lordship proceeded to Lambton Castle, the seat of Lord Durham, where he slept that night, and on the following day (Saturday), soon after eleven o'clock, his lordship, accompanied by Countess Grey, the honourable Colonel Grey, and other members of the family arrived at the Turk's Head inn, in the Bigg-market, Newcastle, where a number of gentlemen had assembled to salute his lordship; he was also greeted with three times three hearty cheers, from an immense crowd which had collected. His lordship did not alight, but acknowledged the compliment by bowing from the carriage, and the cheers were repeated when he drove off. The bells in the churches of Gateshead and Newcastle were rung on the occasion. As soon as

it was known that the earl would pass through Morpeth, an address was drawn up and very generally signed by the inhabitants. His lordship was received at the Queen's Head inn with the most enthusiastic applause, and Mr. Woodman, in an appropriate speech, presented the address, to which his lordship made an animated and suitable reply. At Alnwick, an address was voted to be presented to his lordship, for which purpose a procession went out as far as the toll bar, but, owing to some misinformation, his lordship had passed through some time before. John Carr, esq., of Bondgate Hall, transmitted the address on the following day, to which his lordship returned a most gracious answer. The address was signed by 847 persons. This is perhaps the first time that a prime minister passed through Newcastle, and that person a native of Northumberland.

1832 (*Aug 25*).—Barnardcastle and its neighbourhood were visited by a dreadful thunder-storm, accompanied by a whirlwind, which completely unroofed a thatched house, and laid the inmates senseless on the floor, but without further injuring them; a large stack of hay was thrown down, and a person, named Armstrong, who was breaking stones on the road, was lifted off his feet, and thrown to the ground without being much hurt. The whirlwind crossed the river Tees, tore up some large trees near Lartington Hall, and killed a calf in a field belonging to Mr. George Dixon, of Cotherstone. The Tees rose to a great height, and the road between Barnardcastle and Bowes, was rendered almost impassable.

August 26.—About four o'clock on the morning, one of the most dreadful showers of hail ever experienced, took place at Stockton. The demolition of glass alone amounted to upwards of £200. Great damage was also sustained by the gardens and orchards in the immediate vicinity of that town.

August 27.—The members of the Sunderland Political Union, and other friends of reform, celebrated the passing of the reform bills by a public dinner in a large field near Waterloo-place. The tables were arranged under a spacious canvas covering, and were well supplied with beef, ham, plum-puddings, &c. The price of the ticket was fixed at 2s., but in order that the poorer classes might be enabled to join in the celebration, a subscription was entered into by some gentlemen, which allowed a number of the tickets to be disposed of at one shilling each. There were two bands of music in attendance, for whose accommodation elevated platforms were erected at each end of the covering; a platform was also erected for the accommodation of the ladies, a number of whom appeared to view the proceedings with much satisfaction. At two o'clock the chairman of the Sunderland Political Union, the Rev. John Wright, Unitarian minister, accompanied by Charles Attwood, esq., of Whickham, and a large body of the Union, entered the green, and took their places at the tables, amid repeated cheering and a discharge of small cannon; the Rev. chairman having said grace, the business of the dinner was proceeded with, after which the toasts and the speeches occupied the meeting until about seven

o'clock. The pressure and uproarious conduct of a crowd which had carried all before it, and broke in upon the meeting, beggared all description, and rendered the scene truly ludicrous. As scarcely a word could now be heard from the speakers, the chairman, accompanied by Mr. Attwood, and the members of the council, adjourned to Miss Jowsey's, the Bridge inn, from the windows of which, the chairman and Mr. Attwood again addressed a great concourse of people. About 670 persons sat down to dinner.

1832 (*Aug. 27*).—A fire broke out about nine o'clock at night, in the workshop of Mr. Thomas Scott, cart-wright, Orchard-street, Newcastle, which raged with great fury, and threatened the destruction of the adjoining buildings. The engines were speedily on the spot, but could not prevent the loss of the whole of the building. Mr. Scott's loss was estimated at £450; his stock of timber and tools being entirely destroyed. No part of it was insured.

1832 (*August 28*).—The new chapel for divine worship in communion with the established church, at Duddo, in the parish of Norham, was opened, the pious undertaking of the excellent and zealous vicar, the Rev. William Stephen Gilly. (*See April 6th, 1832, page 351.*) It is a neat specimen of Saxon architecture, from a design by Mr. Bonomi, of Durham, and it affords accommodation (the sittings being all free) for about 250 persons. The Rev. Chas. Thorp, archdeacon of Durham, and official of the dean and chapter, read the bishop's license and the appointed preliminary address, after which the morning service was read (with appropriate lessons and psalms selected for the occasion), and an eloquent and impressive sermon was preached by Mr. Gilly. All the clergy in the neighbourhood in their gowns, and nearly all the gentry in the vicinity (including the earl of Home) were present on the occasion, in compliment to the worthy vicar.

August.—At this time the cholera morbus again raged in Newcastle and various other towns of Northumberland and Durham, some of which had not been visited by the disease in the winter of this year. *See October 26th, 1831, page 322.*

September 3.—The "Northern Academy of Arts" in Blackett-street, Newcastle, having been disposed of in shares of twenty-five pounds each, and its title changed, the following notice of its opening was given to the public:—"The Newcastle upon Tyne Institution for the General Promotion of the Fine Arts." "The shareholders and the public in general are respectfully informed, that the above institution for the exhibition of pictures and sculpture, &c., will open for the first season, on Monday the 3d day of September. By order of the committee of management. Keenlyside and Walton, secretaries. Admittance 1s; season tickets, 5s; Catalogues, 1s. each. Open from 10 in the morning until dusk. Tickets to be had of the Secretaries, at their office, 16, Westgate-street, and of the principal booksellers in Newcastle." There were some excellent pictures in this exhibition.

September 5.—Died, at his house at the Leazes Terrace, Newcastle, Thomas Trotter, esq., M. D. He was a native of Roxburgh-

shire, and received his classical and medical education at the college of Edinburgh. In the year 1782, when very young, he was appointed surgeon in the royal navy, and having been a voyage in the African slave trade, he was called before a committee of the House of Commons, to give evidence against that horrid traffic in human flesh. In 1785, he settled at Wooler, in Northumberland, and having passed through the different examinations at the college of Edinburgh, he obtained the degree of M.D. in 1788; the following year he was appointed to the flag ship of his friend and neighbour Admiral Roddam. In December 1793 he was appointed physician to the royal hospital at Portsmouth, and in the following April was nominated physician to the channel fleet, by Earl Howe, without any previous application, but merely in compliment to his professional studies devoted to the health of seamen. The medical duty of the fleet was an incessant and laborious task for nearly nine years. In June 1795, after the battle off Groa, the doctor received a severe personal injury in ascending a ship's side, during a tremendous swell of the sea, to visit a wounded officer (Captain Grindall, of the *Irresistible* of 74 guns), which incapacitated him for all active duty in boats, and from that period he was under the necessity of confining himself for some hours of every day, to a horizontal posture to relieve the painful effects of that misfortune, which daily increased. After his quitting the navy in 1802, he settled in Newcastle until the year 1827, when he retired to Roxburghshire, but had returned to Newcastle only a few months before his death. Doctor Trotter was the author of the following works, viz.:—" *Medicina Nautica*," 3 vols.; " *Observations on Scurvy*;" " *Medical and Chemical Essays*;" " *Suspiria Oceani, a Monody on the death of Earl Howe*;" " *An Essay on Drunkenness*;" " *A view of the Nervous Temperament*;" " *The Noble Foundling, or, the Hermit of the Tweed*;" " *A Practicable Plan for manning the Royal Navy*;" &c. Various of his poetic pieces appeared in the journals of the day. In 1829 he published a volume of poems entitled " *Sea Weeds*," with a portrait prefixed "AN. ÆT. 37." A portrait of the doctor was given in the *European Magazine* for May 1796. There is a beautiful epitaph on a stone in St. Andrew's church yard, Newcastle, to the memory of his first wife, written by the doctor.

1832 (*Sept. 6*).—The passing of the Reform Bills was commemorated at Hexham, by a public procession and dinners at the respective club-houses of each trade.

September 10.—The passing of the Reform Bills was celebrated at Gateshead, by a public dinner at the house of Mr. Bell, sign of the Grey Horse. At five o'clock in the evening, nearly one hundred gentlemen sat down. The chair was taken by Cuthbert Rippon, esq., of Stanhope Castle; and Mr. James Pollock, Mr. James Charlton, and Mr. J. B. Johnson, officiated as vice-presidents. On the right of the chairman were seated Sir Hedworth Williamson, bart., M.P., W. H. Ord, esq., Captain Dinsdale, and T. E. Headlam, esq., M.D.; on the left, Hedworth Lambton, esq., John

Bowes, esq., of Streatlam Castle, William Loraine, esq., &c. At the upper end of the room were displayed two handsome banners, one bearing the arms of the borough of Gateshead: the other, the arms of Mr. Rippon, the candidate for the borough; and in the centre, between the two banners, was placed a bust of the lord chancellor. At the lower end were displayed two handsome banners, provided by Mr. Abraham Dawson, displaying the colours of the members for the county who supported the reform measure, and those who were expected to support liberal principles in the event of their being returned at the next election. The toasts and speeches occupied the meeting until a late hour, when the company broke up.

1832 (*Sept. 11*).—A public meeting was held in the Guildhall of Newcastle, to consider of the propriety of congratulating Earl Grey on his return to his native county, and expressive of gratitude for his originating and conducting to a successful termination the important measure of parliamentary reform. Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., M. P., in a neat speech moved, and afterwards read the address, which was seconded by James Losh, esq., in a speech of considerable length. The address was then adopted unanimously, after which three times three cheers were given for Earl Grey and the cabinet.

About five o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, nearly two hundred gentlemen sat down to a public dinner at Mr. Fletcher's, the Turk's Head inn, Newcastle, to celebrate the passing of the Reform Bills. The chair was taken by George Baker, esq., of Elemore, the father of reform in this district. The chairman was supported on his right by Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., M. P., William Ord, esq., M. P., Ralph Carr, esq., Sir Hedworth Williamson, bart., M. P., Cuthbert Rippon, esq., and Alderman Wright; and on his left by T. W. Beaumont, esq., M. P., John Hodgson, esq., M. P., John Bowes, esq., the hon. Captain Howard, the rev. John Saville Ogle, and C. W. Bigge, esq. Colonel Tower, Dr. Headlam, and J. C. Jobling, esq., officiated as vice-presidents. Among the gentlemen present were, Colonel Bell, George Silvertop, esq., Colonel Silvertop, H. Witham, esq., John Cookson, esq., Thomas Fenwick, esq., George Salvin, esq., J. Salvin, esq., C. Blackett, esq., F. Errington, esq., W. H. Ord, esq., Capt. Dinsdale, T. C. Granger, esq., W. Loraine, esq., Edward Loraine, esq., James Losh, jun., esq., E. J. Clavering, esq., Cuthbert Dunn, esq., W. Fife, esq., Robert Ormston, jun., esq., R. Boyd, esq., Colonel Campbell, Rev. Archdeacon Scott, Rev. Anthony Hedley, Rev. W. Mark, Rev. James Worswick, Rev. William Turner, &c. &c. Various loyal and constitutional toasts were given, and most excellent speeches were delivered by Mr. Bigge, Mr. Silvertop, Mr. Beaumont, Sir M. W. Ridley, Mr. Hodgson, Captain Blackett, Mr. Ord, Rev. Mr. Ogle, Mr. Bowes, Captain Howard, Sir H. Williamson, Mr. W. H. Ord, Mr. Rippon, Mr. Losh, &c. &c.

September 20.—At a general meeting of the shareholders of the "Northern Joint Stock Bank," then about to be established in

Newcastle, the following gentlemen were chosen directors:—Thomas Reed Batson, Nathaniel Grace, Thomas Brown, James Lowndes, Anthony Clapham, James Carr, Charles Attwood, George Burdis, John Scott, William Maude, esquires, and Lieutenant-General Austin. It was also determined, that Thomas Reed Batson, and Nathaniel Grace, esquires, should be managing directors. The business of the Bank, it was expected, would commence in a few weeks after, in apartments then being fitted up at the west end of the Royal Arcade, in Pilgrim Street.

September 21.—Died, in the 62nd year of his age, at his seat, Abbotsford, Roxburghshire, Sir Walter Scott, bart. He was born on the 15th of August, 1771, was educated at the High School, Edinburgh, and afterwards devoted his time to the profession of the law. Although the lamented death of this illustrious man did not occur within my limits, yet I am in gratitude bound (not only because I consider him, in reference to his writings, as belonging to every place and every country, but also for his prompt replies to my letters, and his wish to be a subscriber to this work) to notice him here, and though dead, his name shall remain in the list of my patrons. Sir Walter Scott's death has bereaved the world of one of its brightest sons of genius. His first literary productions were two ballads from the German, "*The Chase*," and "*William and Mary*," published anonymously. "*Goetz of Berchenlingen*," a tragedy, also from the German, appeared in 1799; and, about the same time, he contributed two ballads, "*The Eve of St. John*," and "*Glenfinlas*," to Lewis's "*Tales of Wonder*." His next work was "*The Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*," in 1802, which first established his poetic fame. "*Sir Tristram*," was published in 1804, this was followed the next year by "*The Lay of the last Minstrel*," afterwards succeeded by "*Marmion*," in 1808; "*The Lady of the Lake*," in 1810, the most popular of his poetic productions; "*The Vision of Don Roderick*," in 1811; "*Rokeby*," in 1812; "*The Lord of the Isles*," in 1814; and "*Waterloo*," soon after. These were his principal poetic works. Sir Walter published "*The Border Antiquities of England and Scotland*," and also edited the works of Dryden, Somers' Tracts, Sadler's State Papers, Miss Seward's works, and those of Swift; he besides conducted The Edinburgh Annual Register. It is only necessary to allude in this brief outline to the "*Waverley*" series of novels, so named from the title of that first published. From these having originally appeared without the author's name, he was called "*THE GREAT UNKNOWN*." It is admitted that no contemporary author has written so much, and few so well, as his works have been translated into all the languages of Europe. *September 26*, his honoured remains were consigned to the tomb, amid the unfeigned regret of thousands. About two o'clock, P. M., the long funeral procession began to move from Abbotsford to Dryburgh Abbey, where the remains of Sir Walter Scott were laid beside the body of Lady Scott, and also that of his uncle.—The Glasgow Courier, after giving a long account of Sir Walter Scott, and comparing him with the celebrated Göethe, a German

author, and who was his contemporary, indulges in the following strain: "It is an instance of those dispensations of nature, which are intended to awaken the attention of mankind, that these two celebrated men died in the same year. Will not this double affliction stand out as one of the most melancholy events of these dark times? And will not the future historian record it as a sign of the season of distress which has visited the family of man? The year 1832 will be remembered for the multitude of changes which it has scattered over the face of Europe. It will be remembered as the year which witnessed the struggles of Poland against the tyranny of Russia, and which saw the high-souled children of that ancient country condemned to wear the galling bonds of servitude. It will be remembered as the year which tortured Portugal with the struggles of a disputed succession, and filled her rich vales with the horrors of a civil war. It will be remembered as the year which abolished the institutions of France, and gave a new constitution to Britain. It will be remembered as a year of pestilence, of mercantile distress, and of political agitation—as a year of insecurity and panic—of suffering and anxiety; but, above all, it will be remembered as the year which deprived Europe of Göethe, and the world of Sir Walter Scott." As every sentence from the pen of this great author, must now be invaluable, I hope the reader will not consider the following copy of a letter as an obtrusion:—

"Sir,—I am favoured with your letter accompanying Unpublished Re-
 " mains of Mr. Pickering, for which accept my best thanks. I will with
 " pleasure subscribe to your proposed new edition of your Historical Regis-
 " ter, of Memorable Events in the Counties of Durham and Northumber-
 " land. I had the pleasure of receiving in safety your Tinmouth Bathers
 " and the other articles of curiosity, with which you have obliged me, and
 " remain,

" Your most obedient Servant,

" WALTER SCOTT.

" Edinburgh, 6, Shandwick Place,

" 15 November, 1828.

" Mr. John Sykes, Bookseller, Newcastle."

1832 (*Sept. 25*). A whale was cast on shore at Coquet Island, on the coast of Northumberland, in a sickly state, and on being discovered by the keeper of the island, it being ebb tide, and the monster finding the water leaving him, made a desperate struggle to escape. The inhabitant of the island, not being usually honoured with a visit from the "king of the sea," immediately hoisted his flag for assistance from the land, which was promptly attended to by the Hauxley fishermen, who arrived in time to assist the seaman, and they succeeded in capturing the whale, after firing several shots, and piercing it with a spear. It measured fifty feet.

1832 (*Sept. 27*).—About seven o'clock on the morning, a duel took place in Offerton Lane, near Herrington, Durham, between Mr. Russell Bowlby, a candidate for South Shields, and Mr. Braddyll, a candidate for the Northern Division of the county of Durham, in consequence of expressions used by the former in a speech at South Shields, and which had been commented on by Mr. Braddyll in a

speech at the same place. Mr. Braddyll was attended by G. P. Irvine, Esq., and his antagonist by Captain Bowlby. Mr. Braddyll, after receiving Mr. Bowlby's fire, discharged his pistol in the air. Mr. Bowlby then stepped forward and declared his regret that he should have uttered expressions painful to the feelings of Mr. Braddyll, and the latter gentleman, in consequence of this acknowledgement, declared his sorrow at having commented in the tone he did, on those offensive expressions. The parties then left the ground.

The same day, soon after twelve o'clock, another hostile meeting took place, at the sign of the Hare and Hounds, on the Sedgefield-road, between Sir Hedworth Williamson, bart., and Mr. Braddyll, rival candidates for the Northern Division of the county of Durham. This duel arose out of expressions purporting to have been used in the speeches of the parties against each other. Sir Hedworth Williamson was attended by John Fawcett, esq., and Mr. Braddyll by William John Bankes, esq., M. P. The parties each fired twice, when Sir Hedworth, sanctioned by his second, agreed to the following :—" I am sorry to have used a term which has been offensive to Mr. Braddyll's feelings, and which has been received in a sense in which I never intended it." The parties then shook hands, and left the field.

1832 (*Sept.*)—This month, part of the clergy of Northumberland and diocese of Durham, memorialized the Right Rev. William Van Mildert, lord bishop of Durham, and also his most gracious majesty King William IV., on a Reform of the Church. The memorial to their diocesan was signed by thirty-seven clergymen of the county of Northumberland, and that to his majesty was signed by forty-three clergymen of the same county. This is worthy of record, as it was understood to be the first attempt of the established clergy to reform their own church.

October 2.—Being Michaelmas Monday, the day for the election of the mayor and other officers of the corporation of Newcastle, the burgesses met at the Guildhall for the purpose of auditing the accounts, &c., of the preceding year, when much angry feeling and determination to opposition were displayed; so much so, that they formed two parties in proceeding to the Spital school, the place of election—the one headed by Archibald Reed, esq., mayor, the other by alderman Wright. As much previous excitement by placards had been made, an unusually large body of the burgesses and other inhabitants attended the processions. On arriving at the place of election, some of the new electors, on their attempts to enter, having been opposed by the police, they withdrew and would not return, which occasioned a scene of violence and uproar, until about six o'clock, when the meeting was adjourned to nine o'clock, when they again met, and the same confusion took place, and continued until near twelve o'clock, when the meeting was again adjourned to ten o'clock the next morning, without proceeding one step in the election. Summonses were issued to the electors of the preceding year to attend at the

appointed time, and a sufficient number of them having been procured, the business was quickly gone through, by electing John Brandling esq., mayor, Henry Bell, esq., of Newbiggen, sheriff, and the subordinate officers, which, it appears, was done with closed doors. The burgesses, who wished to bring in alderman Wright as chief magistrate, now finding their intentions frustrated, adjourned to the Spital-field, and having passed several resolutions, and votes of thanks to those individuals who had been most active in the cause of Mr. Wright, they determined to apply to his majesty, the house of lords, and the house of commons, for a revision of the charter. After the election of Mr. Brandling and the other officers, they proceeded to the mayor's chamber, in the Guildhall, where the common council of the preceding year were re-elected. Perhaps there never were before so much violence and delay in the election of the officers of Newcastle. It is on record, that upon a similar occasion, and on the same day of the month, violence had been used; and on another occasion, that the parties sat up all night. *See vol. i. p. 102 and 112.*

1832 (*Oct. 3*).—The passing of the Reform Bills was celebrated at Alnwick by a public dinner in the town-hall; upon which occasion, the chair was taken by Sir Francis Blake, bart., supported on his right by Lord Howick (who had received an invitation from the committee to attend), and on the left by Colonel Grey; John Carr, esq., of Bondgate Hall, and Henry Hewitson, esq., of Hedgeley, ably officiated as vice-presidents. Amongst the company present (between 60 and 70), were the following gentlemen:—R. Carr, esq., Dr. Wilson, Rev. Dr. Herdman, Rev. D. Paterson, J. Lambert, Esq., Captains Macleod and Gourlay, J. C. Tarleton, esq., J. Thirlwell, esq., H. Taylor, of Christon Bank, esq., &c., &c. There were some excellent speeches made by the chairman, Lord Howick, and several of the gentlemen present. Sir F. Blake, accompanied by Lord Howick, Colonel Grey, &c., having left the room, John Carr, esq., was called to the chair, and after some appropriate sentiments, the meeting broke up, highly gratified with the entertainment.

Oct. 8.—The chapel of ease for the parish of St. John, Newcastle, at Benwell High Cross, was consecrated by the lord bishop of Bristol, officiating at the particular request of the bishop of Durham, who was prevented from being present by serious indisposition. The ground for this chapel and cemetery was given by John Buddle, esq., and the stone by John Hodgson, esq. M. P. for Newcastle. *See July 4, p. 304.*

October 9.—In consequence of the inclined and dangerous state of the beautiful steeple of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle (*see page 345*), it was found necessary to prop it with immense beams of timber, for the purpose of taking out the old foundation (which on examination was alarmingly bad), and putting in a new one of massive stone work, with strong abutments. On the above day, the workmen, whilst digging near the foundation of the tower, discovered two stone coffins, each about seven feet long, with a

cavity for the head. They were found a little north of the west entrance, on the outside of the building, and at a very trifling depth below the pavement. When the stone covers were removed, the coffins were found to contain some human bones, and a large portion of earth. It was evident from the large quantity of human bones dug up, that this must have been a part of the ancient cemetery subsequently added to the street.—*See page 61.* Whilst excavating during this repair, several ancient relics of mortality were found. The very old entrance under the tower, called the South Porch, was at this time taken down. For correct views of this porch, its door-way, and sun-dial, *see vol. i. page 396, and vol. ii. page 343.*

The reform bill passed on the 7th of June, 1832, (*see page 362*) enacts, that, the counties of Durham and Northumberland shall be divided into north and south, and each division to return two members. It is also enacted, that, Sunderland return two members, and that Gateshead, South Shields, and Tynemouth, return each one member, and, that Morpeth, which had hitherto returned two members, shall, in future return only one member to parliament.

<i>New Boroughs, with their Boundaries.</i>	<i>Present Candidates.</i>
SUNDERLAND.—Parish of Sunderland, Townships of Bishopwearmouth, Bishopwearmouth Pans, Monkwearmouth Shore, and Southwick.	Captain Barrington, Alderman Thompson, of London, Sir, W. Chaytor, bart., <i>Witton Castle</i> ; David Barclay, esq., of London.
GATESHEAD.—Parish of Gateshead.	Cuthbert Rippon, esq., <i>Stanhope Castle</i> .
SOUTH SHIELDS.—Townships of South Shields and Westoe.	Robert Ingham, esq., of <i>Westoe</i> ; George Palmer, esq., of London; Russell Bowlby, esq., of <i>South Shields</i> ; William Gowan, esq., of London.
TYNEMOUTH.—Townships of Tynemouth, North Shields, Chirton, Preston, and Cullercoats.	Sanderson Ilderton, esq.; <i>Lemmington Hall</i> ; Geo. F. Young, esq., of London.
<i>Places of Election for Divisions of the Counties.</i>	<i>Present Candidates.</i>
DARLINGTON.—For Durham S. D.	John Bowes, esq., <i>Streatlam Castle</i> ; Jos. Pease, jun., esq., of <i>Darlington</i> ; R. D. Shaftoe, esq. <i>Whitworth Park</i> .
DURHAM CITY.—For Durham N. D.	Sir Hedworth Williamson, bart., of <i>Whitburn Hall</i> , Hedworth Lambton, esq., <i>Biddick Hall</i> ; E. R. G. Braddyll, esq.
HEXHAM.—For Northumberland S. D.	T. W. Beaumont, esq., of <i>Bywell Hall</i> ; Wm. Ord, esq., of <i>Whitfield</i> . Matt. Bell, esq. of <i>Woolsington</i> .
ALNWICK.—For Northumberland N. D.	Viscount Lord Howick, of <i>Howick</i> ; Lord Ossulston, of <i>Chillingham Castle</i> .

The Work was finished at the preceding page, but as the Elections have taken place during the printing of the Indexes, I have added a few pages to enable me to give the members first returned to parliament under the Reform Act ; also the *strike* of the colliers, in 1810, which had been inadvertently omitted in its proper place.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM ELECTIONS.

The writs of Election were received by the sheriffs on Wednesday the 5th of December, 1832, and the days for the nomination of the candidates for the counties and the boroughs were appointed as follows :—

Northumberland, Northern Division, Saturday, 15th December.

Northumberland, Southern Division, Monday, 17th December.

Durham, Northern Division, Saturday, 15th December.

Durham, Southern Division, Tuesday, 18th December.

Newcastle upon Tyne, Tuesday, 11th December.

Durham city, Monday, 10th December.

Morpeth, Tuesday, 11th December.

Berwick upon Tweed, Monday, 10th December.

Sunderland, Monday, 10th December.

South Shields, Monday, 10th December.

Tynemouth, Wednesday, 12th December.

Gateshead, Wednesday, 12th December.

The polling places for the Northern Division of Northumberland, were—Alnwick (place of nomination), Berwick, Wooler, Elsdon, and Morpeth ; for the Southern Division, Hexham (place of nomination), Newcastle, Haltwhistle, Bellingham, and Stamfordham. For the Northern Division of Durham, city of Durham (place of nomination), Sunderland. Lanchester, Whickham, Chester-le-street, and South Shields ; for the Southern Division, Darlington (place of nomination), Stockton, Bishop Auckland, Stanhope, Middleton in Teesdale, Barnardcastle, and Sedgefield.

NORTHERN DIVISION OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

December 15th.

Candidates.

Numbers polled.

Lord Viscount Howick,	} returned without opposition.
Lord Ossulston,	

SOUTHERN DIVISION OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

Polling days, December 20th and 21st.

* Thomas Wentworth Beaumont, Esq.,	2537
* Matthew Bell, Esq.,.....	2441
William Ord, Esq.,.....	2351

NORTHERN DIVISION OF DURHAM.

Polling days, December 18th and 19th.

* Hedworth Lambton, Esq.,.....	2558
* Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart.,.....	2182
Edward Richmond Gale Braddyll, Esq.,.....	1670

*Candidates.**Numbers polled.*

SOUTHERN DIVISION OF DURHAM.

Polling days, December 21st and 22d.

* Joseph Pease, Jun, Esq.,.....	2273
* John Bowes, Esq.,.....	2218
Robert Duncombe Shafto, Esq.,.....	1841

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE*.

Pollings days, December 13th and 14th.

* Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart.,.....	2112
* John Hodgson, Esq.,.....	1686
Charles Attwood, Esq.,.....	1092

CITY OF DURHAM.

Polling days, December 11th and 12th.

* W. Charles Harland, Esq.,.....	439
* William Richard Carter Chaytor, Esq.,.....	403
Hon. Arthur Trevor,.....	383

MORPETH.

December 11th.

Hon. Capt. Frederick Geo. Howard—returned without opposition.

BERWICK UPON TWEED.

Polling days, December 11th and 12th.

* Sir Rufane Shaw Donkin, K.C.B.,.....	371
* Sir Francis Blake, Bart.,.....	357
Colonel Marcus Beresford,.....	345

SUNDERLAND.

Polling days, December 12th and 13th.

* Sir William Chaytor, Bart.,.....	696
* Hon. Captain George Barrington,.....	525
David Barclay, Esq.,.....	402
William Thompson, Esq., Alderman of London,.....	376

SOUTH SHIELDS.

Polling days, December 11th and 12th.

* Robert Ingham, Esq.,.....	205
George Palmer, Esq.,.....	108
William Gowan, Esq.,.....	105
Russell Bowlby, Esq.,.....	2

TYNEMOUTH.

Polling days, December 13th and 14th.

* George Frederick Young, Esq.,.....	326
Sanderson Ilderton, Esq.,.....	264

GATESHEAD.

December the 12th.

Cuthbert Rippon, Esq., of Stanhope Castle,—returned without opposition.

* There were eleven polling booths at Newcastle, viz.—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, at the Exchange for the parish of All Saints, and the townships of Byker, Heaton, and Jesmond; Nos. 5, 6, 7, at the Orphan House, for the parish of St. Andrew; Nos. 8, 9, at the Circus, for the parish of St. John, and the townships of Elswick and Westgate; and Nos. 10, 11, at the Circus, for the parish of St. Nicholas.

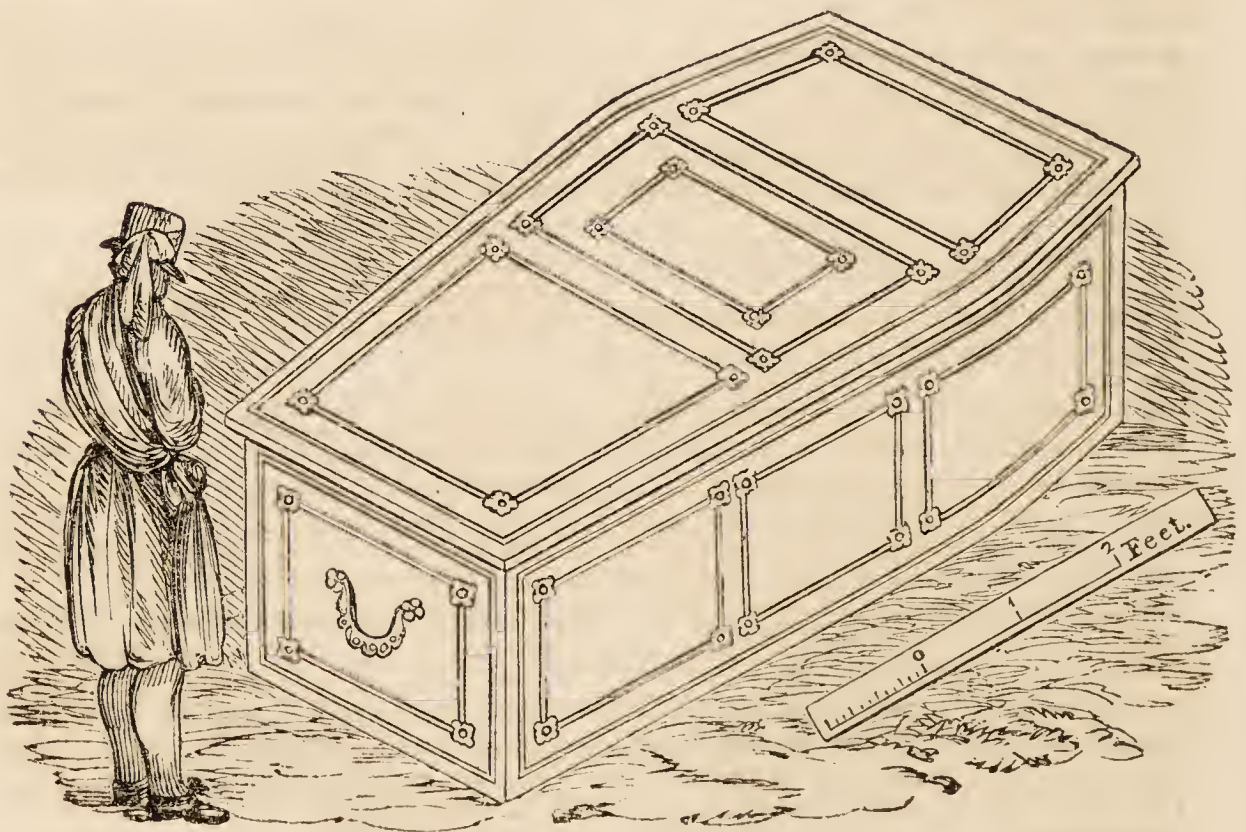
The Candidates whose names are marked thus * were elected members of parliament.

1809.—At the binding of the colliers, which was at that time in the month of October, the owners by a previous agreement among themselves, but which had not been made known to the men, proposed that the men should be engaged for a quarter, or a year and a quarter, which would bring the binding time to the latter end of December or beginning of January, to which the men agreed; but upon mature deliberation they found that they had done wrong, and, accordingly, on the 16th of October, 1810, a meeting of delegates was held at Long Benton, when it was resolved by a majority that a strike should take place, unless the owners would agree to continue the binding from the 18th of October, as usual. This not being complied with, the men accordingly struck after that day, and as the delegates from the different collieries held frequent meetings, both in the counties of Durham and of Northumberland, they were hunted out by the owners and magistrates, assisted by the military, and committed to prison until the prisons could contain no more. To such an extent were the old gaol and house of correction at Durham filled, that for fear of infection, several were removed to the stables and the stable-yard of the Bishop of Durham, where they were guarded by the Durham volunteers, and constables, and afterwards by the Royal Caermarthenshire militia. Fresh seizures continuing to be made, the number in the bishop's stables amounted to about 300. Finding that this mode of procedure only made the matter worse, the Rev. Mr. Nesfield, a magistrate, and Captain Davis, of the Carmarthenshire militia, undertook to compromise the difference. They made application to the prisoners in the bishop's stables, whom they considered the leading men, but who refused to have any thing to do in the matter, leaving it entirely to their partners at liberty, who settled it by removing the time of binding to the 5th of April, as at present. In the course of this strike of about seven weeks, several other things were brought forward, particularly the fines for deficient measure and foul coals. Mr. Nesfield having pledged himself that these things should be rectified after the pits had again commenced working and previous to the binding, he by advertisement called a meeting of the trade to be held at Chester-le-street on the morning of December the 20th, "and that two men from each colliery be directed to attend." This was objected to by Mr. Martindale, the clerk of the trade of the river Wear, on the ground "lest such meeting should hazard a recurrence of the late disturbances," and "that the river Wear does not in itself constitute the coal-trade, but that the rivers Tyne, Hartley, Blythe, and Cowpen, form also a principal part thereof," &c. This being also inserted in the papers, with Mr. Nesfield's answer to the objections contained therein, he by another advertisement dated December the 26th and addressed "to the coal owners of the rivers Tyne and Wear, and of Hartley, Blythe, and Cowpen," called a meeting to be held at the same place on the 3d of January, 1811, when printed

“Proposals for regulating the contracts between the coal-owners and their pitmen on the rivers Tyne and Wear, and of Hartley, Blythe, and Cowpen, submitted to their consideration, at a special meeting held at Chester-le-street, on Thursday, the 3d of January, 1811, by the Rev. William Nesfield, one of his Majesty’s justices of the peace for the County of Durham.” These proposals, which were agreed to by the coal-owners, have been the basis of the agreements with the pitmen ever since.

By the words “binding time” is meant the day from which the contract is made in one year until the same day in the next year, when it expires. The time when it is made is uncertain—sometimes a month or six weeks before the old contract ceases. Previous to 1810, when there was a great scarcity of pitmen, a bounty called “binding money” was given, which at some collieries was as high as twenty guineas a man, but which is now entirely done away. The binding money in 1800 was from 10 to 12 guineas a man. In 1804, from 18 to 20 guineas. In 1809, five guineas, and by Mr. Nesfield’s proposals it was to be the same as the year preceding.

The following wood-cut illustration, drawn to a scale of one foot to an inch, is a correct representation of the immense coffin which was made for the body of Mr. Coulthard, whose death is stated at page 268.



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FINIS.



